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Plant to reject human tissue

U.S. incinerator told to reject B.C. medical waste, which may hold aborted fetuses PAGE 27

WILL THE REAL (GOOD) DEMAR PLEASE STAND UP

RAPTORS NEED DEROZAN TO SHINE IN GAME 3 IN BROOKLYN. USE METRO AR FOR MORE PAGE 61

ON THE CITY SLOPES

Vincent Goyette, a pro skier with Sunshine Village, shows off his skills in a more urban environment than he typically rides. The alpine resort put on a demonstration of freestyle skiing and snowboarding on Stephen Avenue Thursday afternoon as part of its Downtown Throwdown Rail Jam. Sunshine Village will be open until May 19 this year. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

CBE primed to add teachers despite facing budget woes

High schools 'pared to the bone.' Per-student funding cuts spread equally across grades

Calgary public school principals are being told to expect the same staff-to-student counts this fall as senior officials drain operating reserves and spread cuts across all grades to combat a near-$28-million funding gap.

In a "messaging for principals" memo drafted by the board and leaked to Metro, the Calgary Board of Education says it's boosting its resource allocation method (RAM) funding to schools by $25 million for 2014-15.

But a copy of the CBE's RAM booklet indicates that, even with the funding bump, basic per-student grants are still taking a small cut to the tune of 0.7 per cent.

Even still, the board appears to be indicating in the memo that principals overseeing schools with ballooning student counts should prepare to do some hiring. Across the system, CBE projections anticipate an additional 3,000 learners this fall.

"One way to say it is it's going to be no worse than this year, but it's also going to be no better," said Frank Bruseker, president of the Alberta Teachers Association local, who estimated an additional 150 teachers will be hired to cover surging growth.

An email chain Thursday indicates senior CBE officials were informed of questions posed about the 2014-15 RAM booklet, but communications officials advised that the organization hold off on commenting until a budget report to publicly elected trustees is made public May 2.

The school-level budget cuts still appear far less dramatic than those put on city high schools ahead of the 2013-14 school year. Per-student funding for Grade 10-12 students fell from $4,227 to $3,753, a drop of more than 11 per cent. This time around, the senior-student allocation will be reduced only slightly to $3,728.

But both Bruseker and a CBE high-school administrator speaking on condition of anonymity warned that the funding provided for 2014-15 would do nothing to counter reports this year of 40 or more students being crammed into certain core-subject classes.

"It's a zero increase at best and it's actually slightly less than that," said the administrator. "When you're already pared to the bone and then you have a $50,000 cut, well, that's half a teacher."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

SEE PAGE 10

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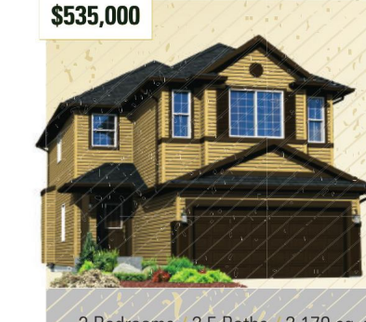

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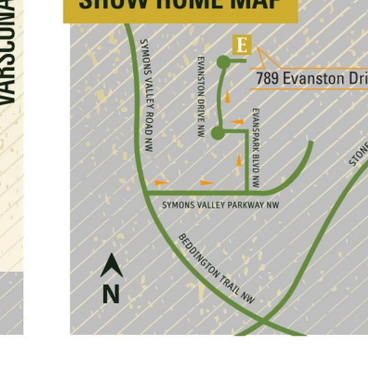

GENESIS

Energy credits

Calgary's main greenhouse-gas reduction tactic to expire in 2018

Calgary's greenhouse-gas emissions edged slightly upward in 2013, and while the city is on track to hit its reduction target by 2020, that goal is in jeopardy, according to a city report.

That's because the credits the City of Calgary gets for purchasing renewable energy — which, since 2012, make up 100 per cent of its electricity use — are set to max out in about four years' time.

It's those purchases that have accounted for most of the city's greenhouse-gas reductions since 2005. Without them, emissions "would be significantly higher," according to a report presented to councillors this week.

Harley Hutchison, a team lead in environmental audits and reporting, told councillors there's "a bit of a concern" with the target once those credits max out, which he expects will happen in 2018.

Pincott said he will keep a close eye on a plan from city staff to reduce emissions through a variety of other means, including more efficient fleet vehicles and city buildings, new energy-saving techniques at the city's data centre as well as landfill gas capture.

"The last thing I want to see," Pincott said, "is for us to once again say, 'Oh, well we're not meeting our targets, so we should change our targets.'"

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Jamie Dorgan, general curator at the Calgary Zoo, says the behind-the-scenes area of the gorilla enclosure has been made safer through lighting and gate upgrades. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Zoo's rainforest-dwelling residents get better digs

Safety and aesthetic upgrades. Zoo also finishing preparations for horde of mandrills

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Calgary Zoo officials thumped their chests Thursday as they proudly showed off multimillion-dollar upgrades to enclosures for gorillas and other animals.

All told, the island attraction spent $5.2 million over three years to enhance gates, fencing, mechanical and filtration equipment and other inner-working systems within its 11-year-old TransAlta Rainforest building.

General curator Jamie Dorgan said some of the enhancements came directly as a result of past safety incidents, while others were undertaken for more practical reasons.

In the gorilla holding area, for instance, the spacing on the mesh gates separating keeper and primate has been reduced, a second main gate has been added and indicator lights have been installed that warn if a door has been left ajar.

In March 2013, zookeeper Garth Irvine was fired after he left a door unlatched and subsequently allowed a group of gorillas access to the kitchen. The keeper told Metro last year that one of the massive apes charged, pinned him down and gave him a small bite.

Dorgan said Thursday all of the zoo's previous security measures "were pretty much industry standard" but said added infrastructure funding allowed them to ramp things up further.

"It makes it a lot safer and a lot more controlled than it was," he said.

The zoo is also completing renovations on a new enclosure to house a horde of mandrills. The site previously played host to wild dogs, Red River hogs and other animals.

The mandrills have already arrived and are in quarantine; officials hope to show off the colourful primates in late May.

Elsewhere, frequent zoo visitors will notice major changes to the vegetation in the aviary and boa enclosures.

"People don't necessarily notice the specific differences, but we'll find that people come by here and the feel of the exhibits is a lot better," he said. "We've put a lot of time and effort into getting some more natural — what we call furniture. For snakes, it's sticks and logs and things like that."

More online

For photos of the zoo's upgraded building, head to metronews.ca/calgary.

Pitch made for Access Calgary to use transit-only lanes to improve service

Proposed changes would allow Access Calgary taxis to use certain high-occupancy lanes, such as these along Centre Street North. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Taxi and limousine advisory committee. Rule changes would apply to high-occupancy lanes

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Cabs carting around disabled patrons may soon be granted access to use a number of high-occupancy and transit-only lanes in a move to improve service.

Calgary Transit arranges more than one million taxi rides for some 15,000 disabled customers through its Access Calgary division annually.

A request was made in 2012 to grant cabs permission to use transit-only road infrastructure in a bid to streamline commutes, and a report coming before the taxi and limousine advisory committee Friday green lights the use of certain lanes and devices.

The rule changes would apply to certain high-occupancy lanes, such as those along Centre Street North, as well as transit-only lanes on roads like 9th Avenue S.E. and bus queue-jumps like the one found at northbound Edmonton Trail at Memorial Drive N.E.

Certain bus-only gates and road shoulders would also be open for participants of the special door-to-door transportation service.

"It's based on some analysis we did and review of enforceability and benefits to Access Calgary," said Chris Jordan, transit's manager of strategic planning.

"We hope to be able to implement some of the changes by summer," he added.

Kurt Enders, head of Checker Yellow Cabs, was quick to point to a problem he foresees when it comes to enforceability.

Enders' organization runs 100 Access Calgary vehicles daily but said those same drivers also pick up able-bodied passengers in their spare time.

"You won't know (if the passenger is disabled) unless you stop the vehicle," Enders said.

"That's why I am saying we should keep it simple, open it up to everybody (all taxis)."

TLAC report

- The TLAC report rules out allowing cabs access to bus loops and terminals — as well as the downtown 7th Avenue LRT corridor — because of the potential for major operational impacts to general transit service.
- More review is planned on whether the cabs would be able to load and unload passengers at marked bus stops.

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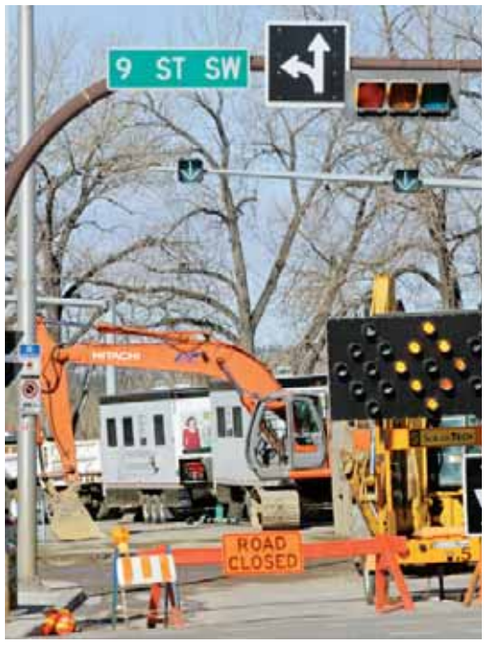

Commuters catch bad break

City work crews are scrambling to fix a water-main break that's plugged a commonly used route out of downtown's west end. The intersection of 4th Avenue and 9th Street S.W. will likely be closed until Sunday for repairs. The city urges motorists to take 6 Avenue S.W. instead. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

'Cosplay is not Consent': Comic Expo organizers

A screenshot from a video released by the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo this week. YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

Not gender specific.
'This is not just about how men treat women ... this is an everybody issue,' event host says

Organizers of the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo are taking extra steps at this year's event to cut down on sexual harassment of guests, particularly those who come dressed up in costume.

Cosplay, as it's known, is popular among many attendees, who show up to the event in elaborate homages to their favourite fictional characters.

That, however, has led to some issues in the past, said the event's main host and spokesperson, who goes by the name Emily Expo.

"This happens with not only the cosplayers but also the celebrity guests, where people get confused," she said.

Staff at this year's event have been specifically trained in sexual-harassment issues and organizers have also released a five-minute video — titled Cosplay is Not Consent — to remind attendees about appropriate behaviour.

For the first time, Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) will also have a booth at this year's event.

"We'll be there to offer information and support," said CCASA communications director Jana Hands.

The Calgary Expo is on now and runs until Sunday at Stampede Park. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Fiction, not reality...

"Yes, this person is dressed up as a character who is highly sexualized. No, it does not mean you can go up and touch them."

'Emily Expo,' host of the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo

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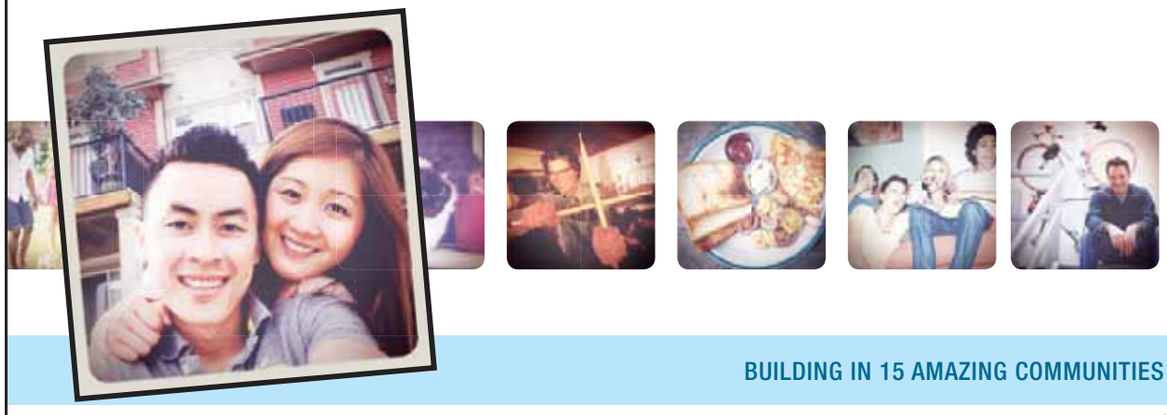

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A little hug goes a long way when tragedy hits

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

The BSD5 won't soon be forgotten.

The tragic story of last week's killings are now etched in the memories of every Calgarian.

Whether you knew the kids, their friends or their alleged killer, or didn't know anyone involved at all, I think the events of last week have changed the DNA of the city.

I don't want to be preachy and tell everyone that it's reminded us that we should live every day to the fullest. Because while that advice is nice, I've never found it realistic.

Things like needing to put a roof over my head, to put food in my belly and to be a generally decent human being often prevent me from taking the journey that books like Eat, Pray, Love tout as the only way of finding happiness.

In the days following the tragedy, I think the University of Calgary's "Hug a Student" campaign resonated with me the most. While I didn't know anyone involved, I have lost a friend tragically and I can tell you a really great hug is better than any bouquet of flowers. And I mean like a really good hug, the kind where you try to pull away because societal norms have trained you to think that it's been long enough, but then the person you're hugging only pulls you closer. They say a good hug has to last 20 seconds, but a hug for any amount of time is invaluable medicine.

Hugs also force you to stand still. In time of senseless sadness, you want to be busy. You want to move or do something. A hug makes you stop, process and feel. According to the Free Hugs Campaign, a hug lowers your blood pressure, lowers your cortisol (the stress hormone) and it can increase your sense of belonging.

This tragedy has reminded me that I needlessly continue to be cynical about the time I have on this earth.

If I'm being honest with myself, I probably spend too much of my day annoyed by something. Do I need a hug? Probably. But I don't think I'm alone.

As we continue to mourn the five young Calgarians we lost last week, I've spent hours looking at strangers on the street. Did they know them? Were they there? But the fact of the matter is, we'll never really know just how many people were affected, which is what makes this event infinitely more heartbreaking.

But you can't hug everyone. Nor would most people want you to. But we can be nicer. We can be nicer to each other on the roads, at work, at home, in the coffee shop, everywhere.

You'll never really know how your hug or kindness could help someone, but it certainly can't hurt. There's already enough of that.

The power of hugs

While I didn't know anyone involved, I have lost a friend tragically and I can tell you a really great hug is better than any bouquet of flowers. And I mean like a really good hug, the kind where you try to pull away because societal norms have trained you to think that it's been long enough, but then the person you're hugging only pulls you closer. They say a good hug has to last 20 seconds, but a hug for any amount of time is invaluable medicine.

Money matters: Alberta gov't passes $43-B budget for 2014-15

The Alberta government has officially approved its $43-billion budget for 2014-15.

The document completed third reading Wednesday night and the governing Tories used their majority to pass it 33-20.

The budget forecasts a $1.1-billion surplus in day-to-day spending, but infrastructure debt is pegged to hit $21 billion by 2017.

The Opposition Wildrose has criticized Finance Minister Doug Horner for plunging Alberta back into the red less than a decade after former premier Ralph Klein paid off the province's $23-billion debt.

Horner has said borrowing for building is prudent because interest rates are low and tens of thousands of newcomers are arriving in Alberta each year.

Critics have also said the budget is presented in a confusing format to hide the deficit and on Wednesday auditor general Merwan Saher said it doesn't meet general accounting standards.

Horner defended the approach Thursday. He said splitting the budget into savings, capital spending and day-to-day spending is the best way to make sure Albertans understand how money is allocated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

CALGARY DEALERSHIP CLEARING OUT ALL USED INVENTORY UP TO 50% OFF!

Carl Holst, Sales Manager of Stampede Toyota, just announced plans to hold a vehicle summer clear out taking Place **Saturday April 26 2014.** According to Mr. Holst increased sales from the last few months have resulted in an overstock of trade-ins. "In the last three months our sales have increased at a higher than expected rate", Holst said. "Now, we must reduce the number of cars and trucks on our used lot to a more manageable number. During this vehicle spring clear-out sale every used car and truck will be sold from 10% up to 50% off its original asking price." Mr. Holst said. "In fact, cars that normally sell for five to eight thousand dollars will be sold for three to five thousand," Mr. Holst said. "Our customers will find these prices even lower than at wholesale auctions."

Auction bidding often inflates the true value of a car so you pay more. Here every car is on sale, first come first served and no bidding. It's the perfect opportunity to get a good quality new or used car at the lowest price in the city. **All cars will be on display at Stampede Toyota on Barlow Trail, 2 blocks north of the Trans Canada Highway. This sale is one day only, doors open at 8:30am. Prices are posted on the windshield you will be given the opportunity to purchase the vehicle at these amazingly reduced sale prices. This innovative approach to selling used vehicles will make it easy and quick for anybody in the market for a good used vehicle to get a great car or truck at a very low price with no hassle.**

One of Calgary's largest import dealers is overstocked and is forced to sell used cars and trucks for as low as **50% OFF, Saturday April 26, 2014**, during a one-day sale event.

"Wholesale buyers will be represented to take trade-ins during the sale," Mr. Holst said. "We also have three business managers who will help buyers arrange low-cost financing. We've got over $10 Million Dollars in inventory to choose from. Our total inventory will be close to 600 new and used cars and trucks to choose from. We want to remind everyone that this is a one-day sale only. When our inventory has been reduced, we will remove the sale prices and return to normal operations. Since we are a local business we would like to give back to the community," Mr. Holst said. "We would rather allow local people to buy these overstocked vehicles than wholesale them at an auction." All cars will be clearly marked with discounts from 10% up to 50% for the entire day. Due to the volume of sales during this event, please no telephone inquiries.

AMVIC Licensee

Kris Demeanor, Calgary's first poet laureate, sits on the steps outside city hall on Thursday while writing in the notebook he always keeps handy. On Monday, the city's new poet laureate will be announced. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

A poet laureate 'for all Calgarians'

Changing of the bard. With his replacement due to be announced next week, Kris Demeanor reflects on a busy two years

Kris Demeanor's tenure as Calgary's first poet laureate has been a busy one.

"I literally spent the first year and a half just fielding requests," said the outgoing literary voice of the city on Thursday, as he approached the end of his two-year term. "There were times I had two or three events a week where I was asked to perform, or commissioned to write a new piece."

From schools and corporate events to writing workshops, political rallies and the mentorship of a young writer, Demeanor was called on to take part in all sorts of activities in his official capacity.

That level of engagement wasn't quite what he was expecting when he first accepted the position in 2012. Poet laureates in other jurisdictions typically have more staid job descriptions.

But Calgary has taken a maverick approach to the position since the get-go, opting not to use taxpayer funds to pay the annual $10,000 honorarium, instead relying entirely on funds from the Calgary Foundation and a half-dozen corporate "ambassadors."

"We wanted a poet laureate who was for all Calgarians, so not necessarily a government role," said Emiko Muraki of Calgary Arts Development, which helps co-ordinate and champion the position.

First Calgary Financial is among the ambassadors who fund the poet laureate, a move the credit union believes is a smart business decision.

"We need to have a vibrant community and, from an economic perspective, we benefit from that as businesses," said Dani DeBoice, First Calgary's director of corporate citizenship.

Looking back on his nearly two years articulating the city's experience back to its citizens, Demeanor senses a growing thirst for what the next poet laureate will offer.

"There just seems to be an innate curiosity, as poetry isn't part of the public consciousness that much in North America," he said. "I think people have welcomed the spoken word, more and more." ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Sentencing. Woman fined, slapped with 10-year pet ban for animal cruelty

Convicted animal abuser Ashley Onen has been fined $7,000 and banned from purchasing pets for the next 10 years, says the Calgary Humane Society.

The case dates back to March 2011 when Onen was charged for neglecting a puppy sold over the Internet. After carrying out a cash deal for "S'mores" in a grocery-store parking lot, the buyer found out the pup she had bought was malnourished and bruised after removing her doggie jacket.

This pup, formerly known as S'mores (now Rufus), was the centre of an investigation into an online puppy-selling scheme. CALGARY HUMANE SOCIETY

Four more small-breed pooches were later seized under a protection order.

In an email release, the agency's top animal-cruelty investigator applauded the sentence, noting it halts an "unethical revenue stream."

"This type of exploitive behaviour is concerning and deserving of a significant penalty," Brad Nichols said Thursday.

Nichols noted this case marks the harshest sentencing the agency has helped obtain. Onen does, however, get to keep the pets she currently owns. METRO

Eighth case of measles confirmed in Calgary

Outbreaks. Increasing rates of measles worldwide partially related to 'reluctance to vaccinate,' medical officer says

Health officials have confirmed another case of measles in the Calgary area, Alberta Health Services said Thursday, marking the eighth case in the city so far this year.

"At this time, it is known that this case is not travel-related, does not have documentation of immunization, and does involve multiple public exposure settings," provincial officials said in a written statement to Albertans.

Dr. Judy MacDonald, the medical officer of health for the Calgary zone, said this most recent case makes four this year for which health officials "don't have a link."

"We don't know where they might have got this from," she said.

AHS is warning that measles exposure related to this case could have happened at four restaurants this month, including Asian Buffet on Bonaventure Drive SE from April 8 to 17, Long's Chinese Food on 17 Avenue SW on April 9, Castello Ristorante in Banff on April 14, and South Silk Road Chinese Restaurant on 14 Street NW on April 16.

Health authorities are advising anyone who was at any of those locations during those time periods that they may have been exposed to measles, and to monitor themselves for symptoms.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO
–WITH FILES FROM NEWSTALK 770

If you have symptoms

If symptoms do develop, people are asked to stay at home and call Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-5465 before visiting any hospital or other health-care facility.

Freedom of information

Group asks privacy boss to probe potential breach

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is asking Alberta's privacy commissioner Jill Clayton to investigate allegations of government interference in the freedom of information process.

It comes after the CBC revealed documents showing former Health Department press secretary Bart Johnson was in possession of documents requested by the CTF two months before they were handed over.

The CTF says the delay equates to political interference and violates freedom of information laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Organized crime

Police charge 6 Hells Angels after region-wide bust

Charges have been laid against six members of the Hells Angels following a region-wide crackdown on organized crime Wednesday.

A total of 10 search warrants were executed throughout Edmonton, Strathcona County and Acheson Wednesday morning as part of an ongoing investigation into the Hells Angels.

Members from Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) are expecting more arrests and charges to take place as the investigation continues. METRO

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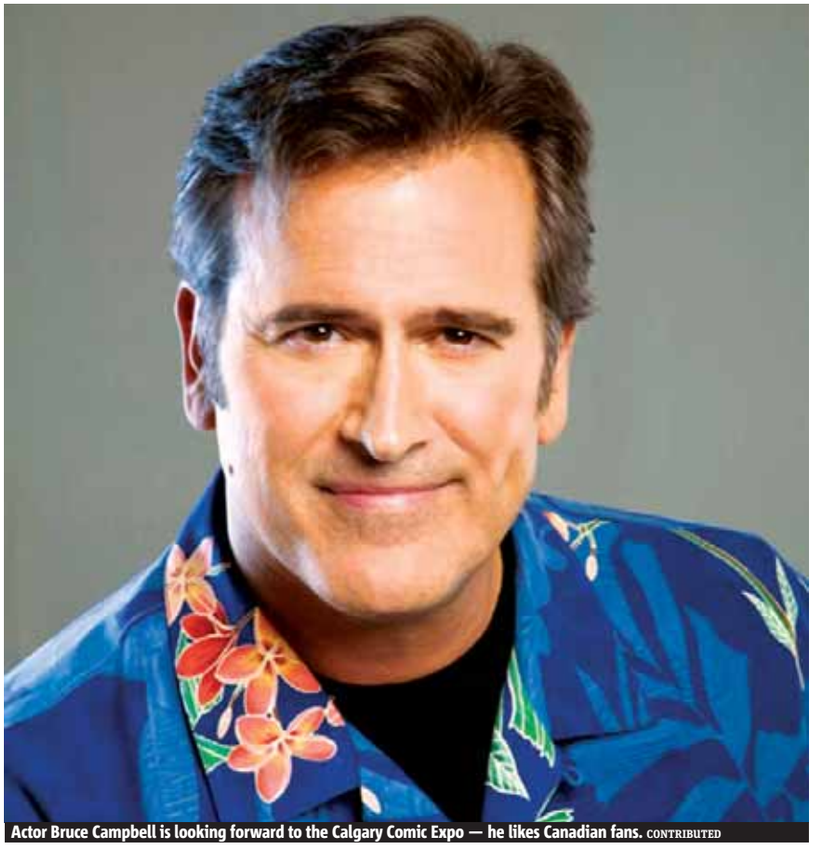

Actor Bruce Campbell is looking forward to the Calgary Comic Expo — he likes Canadian fans. CONTRIBUTED

Boomsticks, boobs and Bruce — a Q&A

Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo. Bruce Campbell talks about superpowers, his favourite roles — and why he likes Canadians

CANDICE WARD
calgary@metronews.ca

While actor, director, producer and author Bruce Campbell is set to have his own convention in place next year — Bruce Campbell's Horror Fest — the star of the iconic Evil Dead and Army of Darkness films will be stopping by the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo this weekend as one of the many big names to hit the town this year.

What are you looking forward to the most about coming to Calgary for the Expo?
Canadian fans. Canadian fans are so friendly. It's mostly fun to interact with fans who aren't surly.

If you were to have any superpower, what would it be?
The ability to make my own superpowers. I don't want to be stuck with just one. Sometimes you need to fly, sometimes you need X-ray vision.

When you take in the Expo, will you walk the floor as yourself, or dress up?
It depends on how jammed the floor is. I would like to wear a Chewbacca outfit and growl at people, and no one would know it was me. Or I would go as the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man or something completely unrecognizable.

What has been your favourite role of all-time to play?
Well I am not done yet. I can give you a few favourites: One, Ash from Evil Dead — that is a slam dunk and got me my start. Two. Cowboy in The Adventures of Brisco Country Jr. Three, Elvis in Bubba Ho-Tep. Ask any actor if they want to play Elvis and all of them will say yes. Four, Sam Axe from Burn Notice. It is the longest run I have ever had with a character.

What is your strangest fan experience?
I conducted a marriage for a zombie couple once. I had to get ordained for that. And a lot of boob signings.

Expo info

The Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo runs this Thursday until Sunday. Bruce Campbell will be at the Expo on Saturday and Sunday for photo ops and autograph signings.

- Limited tickets still available. For more info, visit calgaryexpo.com

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Bhullar backs Prentice run for Tory leadership

Empty seat.
Politicians vie for party's top spot

He hasn't even said whether he will take a run at the job, but Jim Prentice has already got at least one member of the provincial cabinet endorsing him as a potential leader of Alberta's governing Progressive Conservative.

Human Services Minister Manmeet Bhullar says he thinks Alberta would benefit greatly if Prentice were its next premier.

The provincial Tories have been looking for a new leader since Alison Redford resigned as premier last month amid expense scandals and a caucus revolt.

Only one candidate, former municipal affairs minister Ken Hughes, has officially entered the race.

Prentice, who is a former federal cabinet minister, has been widely talked about as a potential candidate, but has yet to say whether he is considering a run at the job.

Asked if he has talked to Prentice about taking a shot, Bhullar would only say the former federal minister would have to speak for himself.

"I think the potential of somebody like Mr. Prentice is incredible for the people of Alberta and we'll see what decision he makes," Bhullar said.

"I'll say I think the people of Alberta would greatly benefit from a strong leader like Mr. Prentice."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Human Services Minister Manmeet Bhullar THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

How to win friends ...

Dog owners invited to scoop-your-poop info sessions

When it comes to doggy doo-doo, the city wants more Calgarians to be do-gooders.

So from this Saturday until October, city staff will be hosting information sessions on a variety of park- and pet-related topics.

"To stop the spread of parasites and bacteria, it's crucial to pick up after your pet," said Kym McCulley of the parks department.

The first is planned at River Park from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Visit calgary.ca/parks or call 311 to learn more about the program. METRO

All in a day's work.
Kenney says it was his job to support Anders

Federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney said he was simply doing his job when he supported controversial MP Rob Anders during a hotly contested federal nomination race earlier this month.

Kenney's backing of Anders drew the anger of the man who eventually won the nomination for Calgary Signal Hill, former Alberta cabinet minister Ron Liepert.

After his win, Liepert said Kenney should have stayed out of the race, and accused him of monkeying around with the nomination process.

Kenney said it was his duty, as the regional cabinet minister from southern Alberta, to support the sitting MP.

He said it's now his job to help get Liepert elected.

"Nominations — there are always going to be different candidates supported," Kenney continued. "But at the end of the day, in any party, you come in behind and support the person who is selected and I'll certainly do that." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nothing to look at here

Kenney, who holds the federal seat of Calgary Southeast, brushed aside any suggestion of a rift between him and Liepert.

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Buffalo, NY

No 'jiggling' in the end zone

The Buffalo Bills cheerleaders will be making no appearances this year, a decision that comes days after a lawsuit over pay and working conditions.

Stephanie Mateczun, manager of the Bills and president of Stejon Productions Corp., wouldn't explain the suspension.

Two days earlier, five former cheerleaders sued the company and the NFL team.

The cheerleaders say they had to work hundreds of hours for free at games and were subjected to groping and sexual comments at mandatory public appearances. One cheerleader said they had to take a "jiggle test" so their boss could assess their physiques.

The cheerleaders seek unspecified back pay and legal fees. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow

Putin wants more cyberspace control

Russia President Vladimir Putin has mocked the Internet as a CIA project and pledged to protect Russia's interests online.

The Kremlin has been anxious to exert greater control over the Internet, which opposition activists — barred from national television — have used to promote their ideas and organize protests.

Russia's parliament this week passed a law requiring social media websites to keep their servers in Russia and save all information about their users for at least half a year. Also, businessmen close to Putin now control Russia's leading social media network, VKontakte.

Putin said Russia needs to "fight for its interests" online. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican calling. Pope's phone call to divorcee leads to questions regarding church rules

What Pope Francis may tell Catholics in private telephone conversations doesn't reflect church policy, the Vatican's spokesman said Thursday.

An unusual statement from Rev. Federico Lombardi came after days of speculation that the pope wants to change Roman Catholic Church rules barring communion for faithful people who remarry after getting divorced.

The question arose after Francis reportedly called an Argentine woman who had written to him for guidance, saying her parish priest had denied her access to the sacraments because her spouse's previous marriage had not been annulled.

The woman's husband, Julio Sabetta, said Francis told his wife that she was free of sin and should take communion anyway.

Sabetta said he took the call from Argentina's former archbishop, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, on Monday afternoon at their home in San Lorenzo, in the Argentine province of Santa Fe.

Sabetta said his wife, Jacqui Lisbona, then took the call and spoke directly with the pope.

Word spread after Sabetta posted on Facebook that the pope had called. Then came news stories speculating that Francis will do away with the ban on divorcees — or even their spouses — accepting the wine and bread that represents the blood and body of Jesus Christ, and full membership in the church.

But Lombardi's statement — issued in Italian, English and Spanish — cautioned that "consequences related to the teaching of the Church are not to be inferred" from the pope's private conversations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis does the sign of the cross during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on April 23. ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death penalty. Oklahoma set to execute two inmates after legal resolution

Two condemned inmates at the centre of Oklahoma's now-resolved legal confusion will be put to death Tuesday.

Gov. Mary Fallin announced her decision Thursday, a day after the Oklahoma Supreme Court removed one of the final obstacles standing in the way of the executions of Clayton Lockett and Charles Warner.

"Two men that do not contest their guilt in heinous murders will now face justice, and the families and friends of their victims will now have closure," Fallin said in a statement.

The high court ruled late Wednesday that the inmates are not entitled to know the source of the drugs that will be used to kill them, information they had sought through a civil lawsuit.

It also dissolved a stay of execution it had issued earlier in the week in a sharply divided and much criticized 5-4 decision.

The state has not executed two inmates on the same day since convicted murderers Charlie Sands and Leon Siler were electrocuted on June 11, 1937. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Costa Rica questions U.S. over decision

Tweeting mad. Secret 'Cuban Twitter' network doesn't sit well with Central American country

The Costa Rican government says it's waiting for the Obama administration to explain why it improperly devised a secret "Cuban Twitter" network from inside the Central American nation's borders despite warnings in 2009 that the plan could jeopardize the two countries' diplomatic relations.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Enrique Castillo said it was "inappropriate'' to use his country for developing the primitive social media network, known as ZunZuneo, which aimed to stir political unrest in Cuba. The network was created under the U.S. Agency for International Development, but its users were unaware it was backed by the U.S. government.

"I think it's inappropriate to use an embassy in Costa Rica for this type of operation that harms a third country," Castillo said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We're not filing a complaint. The point is that embassies accredited in Costa Rica don't have to submit their plans or programs for the Costa Rican government's approval."

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki acknowledged Wednesday that the U.S. Embassy in San Jose received a diplomatic note from Costa Rica requesting an explanation after the AP first reported on the program in early April.

Documents obtained by the AP show that contractors working on ZunZuneo went to extensive lengths to hide its ties to the U.S., using foreign companies and computer servers paid for via a bank account in the Cayman Islands. They did so after acquiring more than 400,000 Cuban cellphone numbers from the island country's state-run telecommunications provider.

The Foreign Ministry told the U.S. Embassy that the ZunZuneo plan exceeded the agreed limits of binational co-operation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexican standoff. Search for drug kingpin heats up

Vigilantes are searching an extensive cave system in the hunt for the last fugitive boss of the Knights Templar drug cartel, a "self-defence" group leader in western Mexico said Thursday.

Vigilante leader Estanislao Beltran said there are signs the cartel had used the caves near the town of Arteaga in Michoacan state.

"I think they used it as a hideout," said Beltran, who had descended about 100 metres (yards) into the caves. "We found evidence."

Three days ago, vigilantes accompanied by federal forces took control of Arteaga, which is the hometown of Servando "La Tuta" Gomez, the only one of the cartel's top four leaders who has not been captured or killed.

The vigilantes sprang up in February 2013 to fight the cartel's extortion demands, kidnappings and killings.

The federal government has given the vigilante groups until May 10 to demobilize, which is usually understood as handing in their largest-calibre weapons and ending armed patrols.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deer, oh dear

A Muntjac deer explores the Flamingo Gardens animal hospital yesterday in Davie, Fla. The deer was sent to the hospital after Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers discovered the rare species, barely the size of a small dog, wandering the streets. J PAT CARTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Afghan police forces are reflected in a security mirror, in front of the main gate of Cure International Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday. MASSOUD HOSSAINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan guard opens fire in Kabul hospital

Insider attack. Shooting spree leaves three Americans dead

Three Americans — a pediatrician and a father and son — were killed by an Afghan government security officer at a hospital Thursday, the latest in a series of attacks on foreign civilians that has rattled aid workers, contractors and journalists.

Another American, a female medical worker, was wounded in the attack at Cure International Hospital of Kabul, run by a U.S.-based Christian charity, and the gunman was also wounded, officials said.

The hospital staff performed surgery on the attacker, who had shot himself, before he was handed over to Afghan authorities, Cure said in a statement. However, Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said the assailant was shot by other security guards.

The attacker's motive was not clear, police said, and there was no Taliban claim of responsibility by Thursday night.

As international troops withdraw, civilian workers increasingly fear they are considered prime targets by militants. Some are rethinking their safety — and if they will even stay.

Among the dead was Dr. Jerry Umanos, a 57-year-old pediatrician from Chicago, according to his mother-in-law, Angie Schuitema.

The shooting continued a deadly pattern of attacks on civilian targets in Kabul.

In January, a Taliban attack on a popular restaurant with suicide bombers and gunmen killed more than a dozen people.

In March, gunmen slipped past security at an upscale hotel and killed several diners in its restaurant. And recently two foreign journalists were killed and another wounded in two separate attacks.

The hospital shooting is also the second "insider attack" by a member of Afghan security forces targeting foreign civilians this month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Everyday risks

"The hard reality is that the country is becoming more violent, and Kabul has not escaped this pattern."

Graeme Smith, senior analyst in Kabul for the International Crisis Group

Syria

Government air strikes kill scores in rebel-held town

Syrian government air strikes attacked a vegetable market in a northern rebel-held town of Atareb Thursday morning, killing at least 30 people and wounding scores of others, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The air strikes came as another Syrian lawmaker announced his candidacy for the June presidential election, state media said. Atareb is located near the city of Aleppo, a major battleground in Syria's civil war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace talks. Israel balks at news of Palestinian reconciliation agreement

Israel broke off Mideast peace talks and brought the U.S.-brokered process to the brink of collapse Thursday, protesting a reconciliation agreement between the Western-backed Palestinian Authority and the militant group Hamas, the Jewish state's sworn enemy.

Israel's Security Cabinet made the decision during a marathon emergency meeting convened to discuss the new Palestinian deal. The rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah announced the reconciliation plan Wednesday, meant to end a seven-year rift.

Israel objects to any participation in Palestinian politics by Hamas, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings and other attacks over the past two decades.

In a statement issued by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, the government said it would not hold negotiations with a government "backed by Hamas."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Draft horses allow larger tourists to ride

Wild West. Horses are giving all people the chance to ride without concern

Wranglers in the West who have for decades cashed in on the allure of getting on a horse and setting out on an open trail say they have had to add bigger horses to their stables to help carry larger tourists over the rugged terrain.

The ranches say they are using draft horses, the diesels of the horse world, in ever greater numbers to make sure they don't lose out on income from potential customers of any size.

"Even though a person might be overweight, or, you know, heavier than the average American, it's kind of nice we can provide a situation where they can ride with their family," said wrangler T. James "Doc" Humphrey.

"I think it's wonderful that these people are looking to accommodate people of larger body size," said Peggy Howell, spokeswoman for the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance.

The bigger horses have allowed outfitters to eliminate weight limits.

"I felt bad about telling people they're too big to ride," said Russ Little of Dry Ridge Outfitters. He said a 225-pound weight limit these days would cost him $6,000 a season.

Laura Ewing of Baltimore said that she was somewhat concerned when she arrived at Sombrero.

"I was a little bit concerned at first, but when I saw the size of the horses that they have here, they're pretty hardy horses.... They're not ponies."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo taken on April 21, wrangler Kyle Rood leads Joker, a Belgian draft horse, for a ride at Sombrero Ranches. P SOLOMON BANDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Israeli team recruits Arab soccer players

When the Israeli women's soccer team Hapoel Petah Tikva lost some of its players to Israel's national team ahead of World Cup qualifiers, founder Rafi Subra made a decision that sets the team apart from many — he recruited from the Arab villages of northern Israel.

For Hapoel Petah Tikva, the addition of five Arab-Israeli women has made waves in the league, despite not being in the top rankings.

"They're happy. We're happy. The mix has been very successful," Subra said.

Though having full rights under Israeli law, Arab Israelis experience discrimination in the country. The soccer field is no exception.

Noura Abu-Shanab, one of the Arab-Israeli players on Hapoel Petah Tikva, said she faced taunts like "dirty Arab" during games. Despite this, she said the "atmosphere of the team is positive."

The team's final match of the season will be played Tuesday against the Arab team Bnei Sakhnin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Arab player of Hapoel Petah Tikva, Hanin Gamal Nasser, kicks the ball during a practice in Petah Tikva. TSAFRIR ABAYOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uruguay

State to regulate pot industry

Uruguay's government is still writing the rules for its marijuana market, and President Jose Mujica has asked that no details be released until the regulations are published.

An official said that the rules will limit consumers to buying 10 grams of pot a month, instead of the 40 grams set by legislators.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong

American's life sentence upheld

Hong Kong's top court on Thursday rejected a final bid for an appeal by an American convicted of drugging her wealthy banker husband and bashing him to death.

Nancy Kissel's case grabbed headlines with its tale of the breakdown of a wealthy expatriate marriage in a Chinese financial hub. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario lawyers spurn Christian law school

B.C.'s Trinity Western. Law Society votes against accrediting law school that bans gay sexual intimacy

The Law Society of Upper Canada's directors voted 28 to 21 Thursday against accrediting the B.C.'s Trinity Western University law school, meaning graduates will not be able to apply to the Ontario bar. There was one abstention.

The controversial Christian university wants to open the law school in 2016 and has the conditional approval of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the go-ahead from the B.C. government, and — most recently — accreditation from the Law Society of British Columbia.

Controversy over the school has centred on the school's "community covenant" — a five-page document students must sign that includes a promise to abstain from "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman."

Bob Kuhn, president of Trinity Western University, had made a plea to law society benchers (directors) Thursday morning, suggesting to vote no would be akin to "institutional bullying."

Even some of the 21 benchers who supported accreditation, took advantage of deliberations to say they did so against their own personal beliefs.

The issue has become so contentious a Victoria lawyer has gathered more than 1,100 signatures to hold a new B.C. Law Society meeting to try to reverse the decision and lawyers based in Toronto and B.C. have filed a lawsuit against the B.C. government for approving the school in the first place. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"(Trinity Western is not) a university of bigotry or a university of intolerance ... Students leave saying, 'I love this place.'" Bob Kuhn, president of Trinity Western University.

Lonely Doug's not the tallest

Hannah Carpendale helps ecologist Andy MacKinnon measure the crown spread of "Big Lonely Doug" to confirm the Douglas fir near Port Renfrew, on southern Vancouver Island, is officially the second-largest in Canada. The 1,000-year-old tree stands about as tall as an 18-storey building and has a diameter of 11.91 metres. The largest Douglas fir, in the San Juan River Valley, 20 kilometres east of Big Lonely Doug, is 73.8 metres tall and has a circumference of 13.28 metres. COURTESY TJ WATT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dirty money? U.S. wants to seize cash allegedly linked to ex-South Korean dictator

U.S. officials on Thursday sought court permission to seize more than $700,000 US from the sale of a Southern California home they allege was bought with corrupt money provided by South Korea's former dictator.

Authorities said Chun Jae Yong, son of former president Chun Doo-hwan, bought a Newport Beach home in 2005 with money provided through bribes that were given to his father. The home was sold in February for about $2.1 million US, and federal officials seized net sale proceeds of nearly $727,000 US that were placed in an escrow account, according to the forfeiture complaint. With court approval, the money will be turned over to the South Korean government.

Chun Doo-hwan, a former army general, seized power in a 1979 coup and ruled the country until early 1988. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Forcillo arrives at court with his wife Irina in Toronto on Tuesday. The Toronto police officer is charged with the second-degree murder of Sammy Yatim who was shot aboard a Toronto streetcar in July of last year.
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Return to duty for cop accused of killing teen sparks anger

Sammy Yatim. The 18-year-old was shot, then Tasered, by police as he held a small knife last July

The return to work of a police officer charged in the videotaped gunning down of a teenager on an empty streetcar was denounced Thursday by the victim's family and supporters.

In a statement, they said they would be protesting on Sunday against the police handling of Const. James Forcillo.

"We are extremely disappointed that a police officer charged with second-degree murder — of which there is ample video evidence — is being allowed to return to duty," the statement said.

Forcillo should not be awarded with "a paid vacation for seven months, followed by a desk job," it said.

A preliminary hearing to determine whether Forcillo, 30, should stand trial is currently underway. He faces a charge of second-degree murder for the police shooting of Sammy Yatim last July 27.

The incident was captured on surveillance and cellphone video on which nine shots can be heard following shouts for Yatim, 18, to drop a knife. Police Tasered Yatim after he had been shot. Hundreds of people subsequently protested the shooting, demanding answers.

Forcillo was released on $510,000 bail and had been suspended with pay. However, Forcillo quietly returned to active duty at Toronto Crimestoppers in an administrative role in February — something that only became public this week.

Outside court Thursday, Forcillo's lawyer said he supported the back-to-work decision made by Police Chief Bill Blair.

"I'd like to see Const. Forcillo working for his pay, being a productive member of the Toronto police service while this matter is ongoing," Peter Brauti said.

To the chagrin of its police chiefs, Ontario is the only province in which suspended officers are required by law to be paid unless they have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. Convicted officers who are not jailed continue to collect pay unless they have been fired under disciplinary rules. Other provinces grant pay discretion for suspended cops to police chiefs.

Forcillo's preliminary hearing is scheduled to run through May 9 and then from June 16 to 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salmonella outbreak

Blame the bearded dragon

Bearded dragons have joined the list of pets that can give you salmonella poisoning.

In the last two years, 132 people in 31 states have been infected with a rare form of salmonella bacteria. Thirty-one answered detailed questionnaires about their illnesses; of those, 21 said they'd handled bearded dragons — a popular lizard native to Australia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas oil spill

Ship was speeding during collision

The owner of a tugboat that collided with a ship last month, dumping nearly 170,000 gallons of oil into the Houston Ship Channel, claims in court filings the ship was speeding and being operated in a reckless manner. In court documents filed earlier this month, Houston-based Kirby Inland Marine alleges the March 22 collision was caused by gross negligence on the part of Sea Galaxy Marine, the ship's owner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pap smear alternative

FDA approves new HPV test

Federal health regulators have cleared a genetic test from Roche as the first U.S.-approved alternative to the pap smear, the decades-old mainstay of cervical cancer screening. The Food and Drug Administration approved Roche's cobas HPV test to detect the human papillomavirus, or HPV, in women 25 and older. HPV causes nearly all cases of cervical cancer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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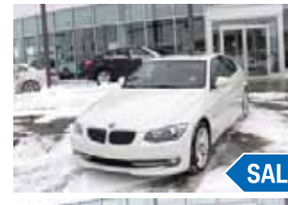

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Garment workers in Bangladesh skeptical of regulation changes

Anniversary of disaster. The owner of the Rana Plaza, whose collapse killed more than 1,100, is now behind bars

Relatives of victims mourn on the anniversary of last year's garment factory collapse in Savar, Bangladesh, on April 24, 2013. A.M. AHAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One year after the Rana Plaza garment factory collapsed in a pile of concrete slabs, Bangladeshi seamstress Shefali says she would rather starve than return to factory work.

Like many survivors of the worst disaster the garment industry has ever seen, 18-year-old Shefali, who goes by one name, says she suffers from depression and has flashbacks of the catastrophe that killed more than 1,100 people. She was injured in the collapse that happened a year ago Thursday and has lingering back pain.

"We die, we suffer, nobody takes care of us," Shefali said.

There have been some significant developments. The owner of the illegally constructed Rana Plaza building is behind bars, pending an investigation. The owners of the five factories operating inside the building also have been detained. Authorities also say they aim to ensure no new factories are built without following safety regulations.

But many garment workers are skeptical that there will be any lasting change. Some of the Rana Plaza workers have left the garment industry. Others returned to a job many see as a way out of poverty.

When the Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24, 2013, thousands were toiling inside. The final death toll was 1,135 people, and thousands were rescued. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Subcontracting

Working in the industry

Bangladesh has one of the lowest minimum wages in the world — about $66 a month — yet makes goods for the world's leading retailers.

The structure of the garment industry is also viewed as problematic.

A study by New York University's Stern School of Business says an "essential feature" of the sector involves factories subcontracting work to workshops with worse conditions.

Sarah Labowitz, co-author of the report, said that these subcontracting factories cause concerns about workers' rights and safety. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Out watching the lives of otters

Two Asian small-clawed otter pups, born in January, join their family to play, tumble and tussle at their public unveiling yesterday, at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Wash. JORDAN STEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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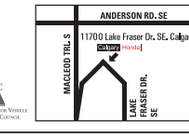

U.S. stowaway said to be homesick for Africa

Perilous trip. Teen, who is still in hospital in Hawaii, had been struggling in school

A security video shows the boy who survived stowing away on a jetliner dangling his feet from the aircraft's wheel well after arriving in Hawaii, before jumping three metres to the ground and collapsing, an airport official says.

The 15-year-old, who defied the odds by living through the freezing, low-pressure conditions in the jetliner's wheel well as it flew from California to Hawaii, was disoriented and thirsty after Sunday's ordeal, Maui District Airport manager Marvin Moniz said.

Staggering toward the nose of the plane, the soft-spoken boy in a San Francisco Giants hoodie asked a ramp agent for a drink of water, setting in motion federal and local law enforcement investigations, national calls for better airport security and a flurry of speculation about how anyone could survive such a perilous trip.

Abdilahi Yusuf Abdi, who said he is the boy's father, told Voice of America Wednesday that his son — who is still hospitalized in Honolulu — missed Africa, where they used to live, and had been struggling in school.

The teen, whose name has not been released, said he had been in an argument at home, went to the airport, and got onto the first plane he came to.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evading security

The boy told officials he evaded what was supposed to be a multi-layered airport security system in San Jose by climbing a fence.

People make their way into Terminal A at Mineta San Jose International Airport near the Hawaiian Airlines gates Monday in San Jose, Calif. A 15-year-old boy scrambled over a fence at the airport, climbed into a jetliner's wheel well, then flew for five freezing hours to Hawaii, Sunday. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pornography

China plans to revoke news agency's licences

China's official news agency says authorities plan to revoke two crucial publication licences for web giant Sina.com because pornographic content was found on its sites.

Xinhua News Agency says the penalty might partially ban the web giant's operations.

Sina apologized Thursday evening for "the suspected problem" of pornographic content on its literature and video sites. It says in a statement on its website that it feels "sorry and ashamed" for lax monitoring and that it has moved quickly to rectify the problem.

Xinhua said the state broadcasting authority had decided to revoke its licences on Internet publication and audio and video dissemination and impose "a large number of fines."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food service industry

Tories crack down on temporary foreign workers

Amid a roar of criticism, Employment Minister Jason Kenney took action Thursday against the government's scandal-ridden temporary foreign worker program by banning restaurants from accessing it.

Kenney issued the surprise moratorium hours after the C.D. Howe Institute released a scathing study into the program that concluded it had spurred joblessness in B.C. and Alberta, two Tory strongholds.

The smackdown to Canadian restaurants came despite Kenney's insistence in recent weeks that only a small number of companies were abusing the program.

Kenney added in a statement that his ministry will not process any new or pending applications for temporary foreign workers from restaurant operators, and any unfilled positions tied to previous approval will be suspended.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Energy plant to stop burning medical waste

Aborted fetuses.
Order comes after learning waste from B.C. may contain human tissue

An Oregon county commission has ordered an incinerator to stop accepting boxed medical waste to generate electricity after learning the waste it's been burning may include tissue from aborted fetuses from British Columbia.

Sam Brentano, chairman of the Marion County board of commissioners, said late Wednesday the board is taking immediate action to prohibit human tissue from future deliveries at the plant that has been turning waste into energy since 1987.

"We provide an important service to the people of this state and it would be a travesty if this program is jeopardized due to this finding," he said in a statement. "We thought our ordinance excluded this type of material at the waste-to-energy facility. We will take immediate action to ensure a process is developed to prohibit human tissue from future deliveries."

Kristy Anderson, a British Columbia Health Ministry spokeswoman, told The Associated Press that regional health authorities there have a contract with a company that sends biomedical waste, such as fetal tissue, cancerous tissue and amputated limbs, to Oregon, where it's incinerated in the waste-energy plant.

The B.C. Catholic, a Vancouver-based newspaper, identified the plant as Covanta Marion, based in Brooks, Ore. When contacted by The Associated Press on Wednesday, a Covanta Marion representative said he did not know if fetal tissue was included in shipments from Canada or elsewhere.

The facility is owned and operated by Covanta in a partnership with Marion County. According to its website, it processes about 500 tonnes per day of municipal solid waste, generating up to 13 megawatts of energy sold to Portland General Electric. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small percentage

Marion County estimates that the facility processes 635 tonnes of in-county medical waste each year and about 1,100 tonnes from elsewhere, making it a small percentage of the total waste burned.

Yellow ribbons a symbol of hope

A relative of a passenger aboard the sunken ferry Sewol is consoled by her husband as yellow ribbons are displayed as a sign of hope for the safe return of missing passengers at a port in Jindo, South Korea, Thursday. Divers made their way deeper into the submerged wreck of a ferry that sank more than a week ago as the death toll neared 160 and relatives of the more than 140 still missing pressed the government to finish the grim task of recovery soon. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Everyday Canadians’ favour bill, Tories say

Elections Act. Minister frames much-maligned bill as Ottawa elites versus average Joes

What’s a government to do when a litany of parliamentary watchdogs, academics, aboriginal leaders, editorialists and opposition politicians say your legislation stinks?

If you’re Stephen Harper’s Conservatives, you seize the opportunity to make the debate over the Fair Elections Act into a political wedge issue — average Canadians versus the Ottawa elites.

Pierre Poilievre, the minister of state for democratic reform, spelled this out Thursday in a luncheon speech in Ottawa, borrowing a favourite phrase from former Ontario Conservative premier Mike Harris — “common sense” — to draw a line between ordinary folks and the out-of-touch political class.

“Away from the noise around political Ottawa, everyone understands that this is common sense,” Poilievre said.

“We’re just finishing two weeks away from Parliament. Out in our communities, it has been refreshing to be reminded of the massive gulf between those in the political bubble and everyday Canadians on the ground.”

For Poilievre, part of developing that us-versus-them frame on the debate has been to suggest there is only one real point of contention: the government’s plan to eliminate vouching. But there have also been complaints about the limitations placed on the chief electoral officer’s ability to communicate publicly, and a campaign-soliciting loophole. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Royal tour wrapping up

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, meets young schoolchildren during a visit to the National Arboretum in Canberra, Australia, on Thursday. Prince William, Catherine, and Prince George leave Canberra after Veterans’ Day commemorations on Friday, ending a three-week tour of Australia and New Zealand. ROB GRIFFITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robocall investigation. Probe ceases after no evidence is found

A three-year investigation into allegations of fraudulent robocalls during the last federal election has found no evidence of intent to deceive voters, nor any evidence of an orchestrated scheme beyond Guelph, Ont.

A long-awaited report from commissioner of elections Yves Cote will come as vindication for the Conservative party, which has faced a cloud of suspicion for years over widespread reports of non-party supporters being directed to the wrong polling stations in the final days and hours of the hard-fought vote on May 2, 2011.

“Having carefully examined all of the evidence, the commissioner found no reasonable grounds to believe that an offence under the (Elections) Act has been committed,” Cote’s 32-page report, posted Thursday, flatly asserts.

Pierre Poilievre, the minister of state for democratic reform, said the report proves the Conservatives ran “an honest and ethical campaign” in 2011.

Cote’s investigation is separate from robocall allegations during the same election in Guelph, where a young Conservative campaign staffer, Michael Sona, faces Elections Act charges for his alleged role in calls that impersonated Elections Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senate scandal

Wallin regrets making payback

Suspended senator Pamela Wallin says she regrets paying back money for expense claims that she still doesn’t see as dubious.

Wallin told a Toronto radio station Thursday that the payback created a perception she was guilty of fudging her expenses.

Wallin, who was co-hosting a three-hour talk show, said she paid back some $38,000 despite her belief that many of the travel expenses in question were legitimate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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N.S. considers reverse onus on organ donations

No definite timelines. Health minister says the idea is still in the planning stages

The Nova Scotia government is considering legislation that would require people to opt out if they don't want their organs and tissues donated after they die, Health Minister Leo Glavine says.

Glavine said Thursday the government is looking at the possibility of reverse onus legislation and wants to gauge public opinion on a policy that would see organs donated unless an individual declines. He said a formal process for asking the public's opinion will be rolled out.

Glavine said he knows from personal experience the sensitivities that can arise when the idea of organ donation is raised by doctors.

Premier Stephen McNeil said while no decisions are imminent he personally believes it's time for Nova Scotians to discuss the possibility of adopting reverse onus legislation.

He said giving notice of a person's wishes well in advance is preferable to doing so in the final hours of life.

Organ donation has been an issue most recently in Alberta where the government proclaimed legislation last fall creating a new agency to co-ordinate organ donations online in order to make registering as a donor easier.

The move was made to address the province's organ donation rates which are among the lowest in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Whether there needs to be a better way or ... reverse onus, I don't know, but it needs to be a conversation."

Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil

Armenians commemorate 1915 killings

Armenians lay flowers at the monument to the estimated 1.5 million victims of mass killings by Ottoman Turks in 1915, to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the genocide in Yerevan, Armenia, Thursday. Turkey rejects the term "genocide," says the death figure is inflated and that people died on both sides as the Ottoman Empire collapsed amid the First World War. KARO SAHAKYAN-PAN PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil

Nations debate future of Internet

At a conference in Brazil, government officials, academics and technical experts from about 90 countries are debating how the Internet should be run.

The draft document being debated at the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, or NETmundial, says participants have "identified a set of common principles and important values."

The document covers a wide range of topics including the right to privacy; freedom of information; and cybersecurity and ways to prevent cyber crime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United States

Posties protest Staples deal

Postal workers in cities across the United States are protesting a pilot program that puts postal services in Staples stores. The retail counters are staffed by Staples employees, not postal workers.

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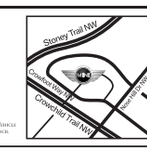


Indiana. Cat and owner reunited five years after feline went missing

A cat that went missing five years ago has been reunited with its owner in Indiana thanks to an implanted microchip.

Local news reports the 10-year-old cat named Charlie showed up at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control on Monday. Workers there scanned the cat and discovered Charlie had a microchip that identified Virginia Fryback of Fort Wayne as his owner.

Fryback says Charlie disappeared from her home five years ago and she thought she'd never see him again. She thanks the veterinarian who convinced her to get a microchip when Charlie was a kitten.

The microchip might have saved Charlie's life. Shelter spokeswoman Peggy Bender says most people adopt much younger cats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Beach

Popcorn machine fire causes theatre to evacuate

A small fire that started in a popcorn machine caused the evacuation of a Miami Beach movie theatre.

Officials say the smoke alarm sounded about 7:25 p.m. Wednesday inside the Regal South Beach theatre.

Miami Beach firefighters quickly extinguished the fire.

Miami television station WSVN showed moviegoers covering their faces as they left the smoky theatre. Employees wore masks as they helped customers get out of the building. One employee was checked by rescue crews but is expected to be OK.

The theatre was expected to reopen Thursday after crews clean up the concession stand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First images of ship wreckage released

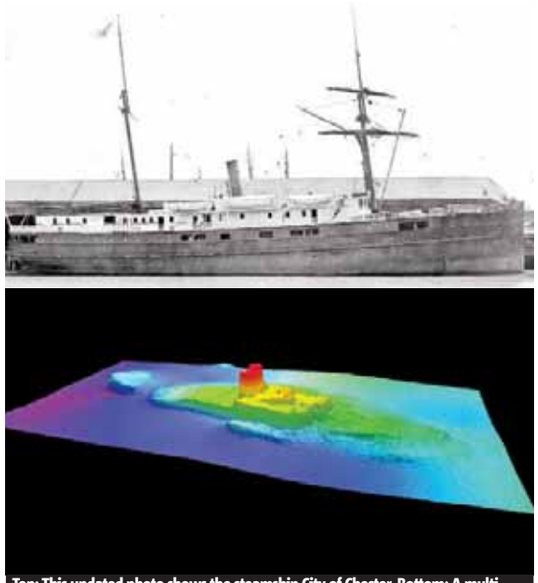
Sank in 1888.
Remains of the boat were discovered more than 125 years later, just in front of the Golden Gate Bridge

The first images of the newly discovered wreckage of a steamship that sank in San Francisco Bay in 1888, killing 16 people, were released Wednesday by federal ocean scientists.

The wood and iron steamship City of Chester went down on Aug. 22, 1888, after it was struck in dense fog by a larger ship.

More than 125 years later, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration team found the shipwreck in 217 feet of water just in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Top: This undated photo shows the steamship City of Chester. Bottom: A multi-beam sonar profile of the wreckage of the ship. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A historical display

The crew used a multi-beam sonic imaging system to capture three-dimensional images of the wreckage.

- The NOAA researchers then put together research about what happened, and found newspaper articles and transcripts of testimony from the accident investigation.
- A display featuring the images and history of the shipwreck is planned at San Francisco's Crissy Field.
- The field looks out over the spot where the Chester sank, just in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.

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Saskatchewan considering dog cull in north

Untagged mutts. Dogs become aggressive during mating season and may attack children, mayor of remote village says

JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

Each spring as dogs enter mating season, some people in northern Saskatchewan take on a most undesirable job.

Duane Favel, mayor of the remote village of Ile-a-la-Crosse, says during this time of year untagged mutts that litter the streets are in heat and aggressive.

"They start bunching up outside the schools," said Favel. "They become extremely dangerous."

It's been like this since Favel can remember. One explanation, he said, is northern society has changed and dogs are no longer necessary for transportation.

Without a permanent veterinarian to neuter animals or a bylaw enforcer to regulate pet owners, Favel said, Ile-a-la-Crosse has few options.

"Sometimes we have to resort to culling, which is unfortunate because we certainly don't want to do that," said Favel.

A poster hung up at the village office around three months ago says administrator Diane McCallum is seeking pest-control personnel who have firearm acquisition certificates.

"It took a while before we got anyone," said McCallum.

Even though no one wants to shoot dogs, tragedies are fresh in the minds of those who live in isolated places.

This season, two young girls were attacked and killed in rural Manitoba on separate occasions. In 2009, a six-year-old boy was mauled in Ile-a-la-Crosse.

Favel said he is consulting with residents on an action plan and there is a need for a holding facility for dogs to stay until claimed or brought to a shelter, which could be difficult to finance.

Louise Bowden-Leonard, a supporter of animal rights based in Nova Scotia, says the federal and provincial governments should step in. She shared the pest control ad from Il-a-la-Crosse on Twitter to raise awareness.

"It's really tragic that these things need to constantly happen in order for anyone to realize there's a problem," said Bowden-Leonard.

A spokesperson with the Ministry of Government Relations in Saskatchewan, who requested not to be named, said that animal control is not the province of Saskatchewan's responsibility.

Street artist condemns Stealing Banksy auction

Elusive street artist Banksy says he has nothing to do with an auction in London of several of his works taken from walls and valued at up to 1 million pounds ($1.68 million US).

A statement on Banksy's website Thursday said the "Stealing Banksy?" sale "has been organized without the involvement or consent of the artist."

Banksy, who has never disclosed his full identity, has become one of the world's best-known artists. Banksy's satirical stencils swap hands for high six-figure sums; in February, his "Kissing Coppers" sold at a Miami auction for $575,000 US.

Seven works, including a giant rat, an image of two children playing with a "No Ball Games" sign and a girl with a red balloon, are being sold by Sincura Group, which says it prides itself on "obtaining the unobtainable."

Sincura was criticized last year for handling the sale of a Banksy mural whose removal from the wall of a north London store dismayed many locals. The company insists it removes Banksy murals only when "approached by building owners and asked to remove artwork illegally painted on their sites."

A section of restored wall graffiti artwork by street artist Banksy is prepared for public display Thursday in London. JOHN STILLWELL-PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banksy's own denunciation of the sale ended on an ironic note.

"This show has got nothing to do with me and I think it's disgusting people are allowed to go around displaying art on walls without getting permission," he wrote.

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NEED A RIDE?
Read metrodrive every Wednesday.

While this dog is clearly in fabulous shape, the Whistle activity tracker he is wearing can help his owner see if he is getting enough activity. WHISTLE LABS INC./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Are lazy dog-day afternoons over?

Is your pooch getting a pooch? A new activity tracker for Fido can help pet parents know if their precious pups aren't getting enough exercise

Bad news for lazy dogs: A new device, called Whistle, lets pet owners track how much exercise — or sleep — their four-legged friends are getting.

Whistle is similar to popular activity trackers designed for humans. It wraps around a dog's collar and syncs with a smartphone app, collecting data on how much activity and rest the pet had.

We tried it out on a dog, who would much rather sleep under the couch than chase a ball. It's no surprise to find out that the pup wasn't getting at least 30 minutes of movement a day.

Whistle pushes owners to take their dogs out on more walks for longer periods.

At $129 US, it is as pricey as some of the latest human fitness trackers from the likes of FitBit and Jawbone.

Dog spy games

The app lists how much rest and activity the dog gets in a day. You can also add what the dog ate, what medication you gave it and any additional notes or photos you want.

- The app looks like a Facebook timeline. You can scroll down to see what the dog has done during the day. You can also swipe the screen from left to right to see what the dog did on past days.

One major difference: Whistle syncs data to its app through Wi-Fi, as well as Bluetooth. That lets you check up on your dogs without being near them, so you can track how much exercise your dog is getting when left with dog walkers, a doggy day care or family and friends.

The Whistle app, available for Apple and Android smartphones, is nicely designed. Multiple people can download the app and see the same data through the same account, which is great if others help care for your dog.

The Whistle looks slick. It is round and is made of stainless steel. It weighs less than an ounce. It is about 1.5 inches wide and less than half-an-inch thick.

The device locks on to a rubber strap that is then wrapped around the dog collar to help it stay in place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Notice of Hearing for Permanent Guardianship Order To

Richard Sutherland-Miller

Take notice that on the **5th day of May, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order** of your child born on **July 21, 2004**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Diane Charlebois; Jackie Ellice; Daniella Eggink
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
Phone: (403) 297-2978

Read metrowork every Monday and Wednesday for tips and trends in education and employment.

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London's iconic Gherkin is in a bit of a pickle

41-storey tower. Deloitte has been named the receiver and says it will try to preserve the building

The Gherkin looms over London's Tower Bridge, and the Tower of London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Accountancy firm Deloitte LLP said Thursday it has been appointed receiver of one of London's most iconic buildings, the Gherkin.

The 41-storey office tower in London's financial district is co-owned by Germany's IVG Immobilien AG, which went into bankruptcy protection last year.

Deloitte said Thursday that the building had run into difficulties due to its "complex, multicurrency capital structure." Its debt burden has risen through having a loan partly in Swiss francs, whose value has risen substantially against the pound in recent years.

IVG Immobilien bought the building for 600 million pounds in 2007, but has struggled with debts since the 2008 financial crisis.

Deloitte's Neville Kahn said "lenders were reluctant to appoint a receiver but felt they had no choice due to the ongoing defaults" since 2009.

Kahn said the receivers' aim was to preserve the value of a "truly exceptional building" and to ensure there would be no interruption of services to tenants.

The Norman Foster-designed tower, nicknamed the Gherkin for its distinctive pickle-like shape, houses offices of insurance company Swiss Re.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot sauce

A cool down in the heated tiff over Sriracha factory

A cooling-off period has been called in the fight between the makers of Sriracha hot sauce and the Southern California city that says its air is too spicy to bear.

The Irwindale City Council delayed a decision for two weeks Wednesday night on declaring the Sriracha plant a public nuisance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going digital

Grand & Toy's bricks-and-mortar stores closing

A 132-year-old institution is closing its last retail stores. OfficeMax Grand & Toy announced Thursday all of its remaining 19 bricks-and-mortar outlets across the country will shut down.

The historic office supplies chain, an affiliate of global office products provider Office Depot Inc., said it will continue to do business online.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

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MIDDLE CLASS SOARS, AIRLINE TUMBLES

It's time for The List, Metro's unerring guide to what's hot this week.

1 **The Canadian middle class.** Really? Yep, it's all the buzz around Timmy Hos. No less an authority than The New York Times says Canada's middle class has passed the U.S. as having the highest after-tax middle-class incomes in the world. Booyah! Too bad for Justin Trudeau, who has based his entire platform on the collapse of the middle class. Right idea, wrong country, maybe.

2 **Twit trending on Twitter.** Remember the name Cliven Bundy, as it is now synonymous with the last gasp of unreconstructed racism in America. This bad old boy — and until recently a Tea Party hero — has been caught on camera airing his views on "the Negro." "They abort their young children; they put young men in jail, because they never learned how to pick cotton." Oh, and "I've often wondered, are they better off as slaves ..." Rancher Bundy was a right-wing poster boy for defying the U.S. government over grazing rights, but those howls are coming from former supporters breaking their ankles after leaping off the bandwagon.

THE METRO LIST

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

3 **Tyler Oakley, born again.** With more than 137 million views and 4 million subscribers, LGBT advocate Tyler Oakley is a giant of the Internet. But in the words of his mom Jackie, he was once seven pounds and 12 ounces ... exactly 24 years ago to be precise. In his latest video, Tyler and his mom resurrect a VHS tape of his birth and watch the blessed event together. It's the first time Tyler's seen it and his reactions ("I look like a baby zombie gremlin!") are more fun than the actual event.

4 **Air Canada has a bad, bad week.** Not only were Air Canada baggage handlers caught casually tossing bags six or seven metres from the door of a plane into a bin below, a new survey shows that Air Canada has the second rudest flight attendants of any airline in North America, just behind Spite, er, Spirit. The best were Southwest and Alaska. In the interest of fairness, Air Canada was voted the best international airline in North America in 2011, but really, what has it done for us lately?

5 **Jodi Foster has a good week.** She marries Alexandra Hedison, photographer, actor (The L Word) and Ellen DeGeneres's ex-girlfriend. Hollywood. Such a small town.

6 **Triumph of the underdog.** Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, the Montreal Canadiens may be the only Canadian team to make the NHL playoffs, but after sweeping the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first round, they may be more than enough to keep Canadian hearts glowing. At the same time, American Meb Keflezighi wins the Boston marathon, the first American man to do so since 1983. Meb was born in Eritrea, land of marathoners, but he's been in the U.S. since 1987, so during a year when Americans desperately wanted their legendary race back on an, um, secure footing, his victory counts as one for Team USA.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Heavy metal's pawsome fans

COURTESY ALEXANDRA CROCKETT

Metalheads have soft spot for cats

It's hard to imagine metal musicians being especially affectionate. But beneath the darkness is a softer side as photographer Alexandra Crockett reveals in her book Metal Cats. Her images capture hard-core metalheads as they pose with their felines. METRO

Q and A

Just a silly idea

ALEXANDRA CROCKETT
Photographer, 30, based in Oakland, Calif.

How did this photo series come about?

I texted about 30 of my metalhead male friends who I knew had cats. I said, 'Hey, if I did this kind of, like, silly weird idea, what would you think about that?' And they were all like, 'Oh my God, I really want to!' The project took me four years as I travelled along the West Coast.

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MetroTube

metro AR Most daring BASE jumpers

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

YOUTUBESCREENGRAB

If there's one thing that illicit leaps from Whistler gondolas and some of America's tallest buildings teach you, it's that it's hard to keep a good BASE jumper down. But the idea of sneaking to the peak of Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, is likely a leap too far.

So what's the plan for hopefuls wanting to drop from the uppermost height of human construction? There's not really much you can do but bide your time and keep your fingers crossed for an invite. That seemed to work out just fine for champion jumpers Vince Reffet and Fred Fugen. (Via Skydive Dubai)

metro
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See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app. These are no Sister Wives! Watch a clip from The Other Woman

What women don't want

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Leslie Mann, Cameron Diaz and Kate Upton are three women wronged in The Other Woman, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Synopsis

Married man Mark King (Game of Thrones's Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) tries to push infidelity to Tiger Woodsian heights by cheating on his wife (Leslie Mann) with multiple mistresses, including Carly and Amber (Cameron Diaz and Kate Upton). "We got played by the same guy," says Carly. The three women form an unlikely friendship, drowning their sorrows in a sea of tequila shots before hatching a plan to humiliate and financially ruin the three timer.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Other Woman. Revenge comedy falls to tired stereotypes on how women view men, but at least the outfits are chic

Richard: Mark, with The Notebook, director Nick Cassavetes made one of the most romantic movies of recent years. With The Other Woman, his pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. This is an anti-romance flick about sex, lies and adultery but it's ripe with laughs and some fun performances. Mann goes all in as a Lucille Ball-on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown type, Diaz has great comic timing, and even Kate Upton, who will never be accused of giving Meryl Streep a run for her money, is charming and funny. It's not Bridemaids funny, but I laughed out loud quite a few times. You?

Mark: Is it possible to like a movie but hate its sexual politics? Because that's how I felt about it. I laughed, especially when Leslie Mann was onscreen. This movie is certainly her personal best. She's amazingly loose and funny, especially in the first third of the film. But the revenge plot against the cheating husband left me feeling queasy. He's set up as such a cardboard lothario that he made the Kate Upton character look deep. There's a positive male role model in the film, Mann's brother, but he's so anodyne and threatless that I couldn't take him seriously as a character. The movie is interesting as a series of Rorschach tests about how women must view men — either cads or eunuchs — but I had to banish these thoughts or I couldn't enjoy the comedy.

RC: I see what you're saying, and I suppose the film is a bit mean-spirited and not terribly subtle in its examination of the dynamics between men and women, but it does get the girl power stuff right, and I think that's more the point of the film. This isn't a movie about the men; they are simply the McGuffins that forward the plot. This is a movie about female bonding rather than female blaming.

MB: Anyway, at least it's a good-looking movie, and the women's outfits are chic. Don Johnson is given a part that's more than a cameo, but less than a role. I think he could have been onscreen more with a beefed-up part. But Nicki Minaj, as Diaz' assistant, steals every scene she's in. I thought she was a hoot. Richard, did the soundtrack bother you? Such obvious choices, like New York, New York when the husband enters the city, or the Mission: Impossible theme when the three women tail the husband to find out what he's up to.

RC: Absolutely. The soundtrack is as subtle as Coster-Waldau's cheesy pick-up lines. Five minutes in, I was willing to bet Girls Just Wanna Have Fun would play … and I would have won that bet.

MB: And I bet the women will cheer and the men will groan at this flick.

SCENE

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Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com. **Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Documentary

Tim's Vermeer

Director. Teller

Stars. Tim Jenison, David Hockney

Tim Jenison, a Texas-based inventor, (Video Toaster, LightWave, TriCaster) attempts to solve one of the greatest mysteries in all art: How did 17th century Dutch master Johannes Vermeer (Girl with a Pearl Earring) manage to paint so photo-realistically — 150 years before the invention of photography? The epic research project Jenison embarks on to test his theory is as extraordinary as what he discovers.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 91% **Audience:** 84%

Drama/Action

Brick Mansions

Director. Camille Delamarre

Stars. Paul Walker, David Belle

In a dystopian Detroit, abandoned brick mansions left from better times now house only the most dangerous criminals. Unable to control the crime, the police constructed a colossal containment wall around this area to protect the rest of the city. For undercover cop Damien Collier (Paul Walker) every day is a battle against corruption. For Lino (David Belle), every day is a fight to live an honest life.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 94%

Drama

A Fighting Man

Director. Wally Pfister

Stars. James Caan, Louis Gossett Jr.

An aging fighter (Dominic Purcell) in search of redemption steps into the ring with a hungry young pugilist (Izaak Smith) with something to prove in this boxing drama featuring James Caan and Louis Gossett, Jr. The film also features Famke Janssen, Kim Coates, Adam Beach, Sheila McCarthy and Michael Ironside.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:**

Horror

The Quiet Ones

Director. John Pogue

Stars. Jared Harris, Sam Claflin

From the producer who brought you The Woman In Black and Let Me In comes the unnerving tale of The Quiet Ones. Tucked away in an estate outside of London, Professor Coupland along with a team of university students conduct an "experiment" on Jane Harper, a young girl who harbours unspeakable secrets. What dark forces they uncover are more terrifying than any of them expected.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 50% **Audience:** 85%

Mystery /Suspense

In the Blood

Director. John Stockwell

Stars. Gina Carano, Cam Gigandet

Gina Carano stars as Ava, a trained fighter with a dark past. When her new husband (Cam Gigandet) vanishes during their Caribbean honeymoon, Ava uncovers a violent underworld of conspiracy in the middle of an island paradise. Armed with a deadly set of skills, Ava sets out to discover the truth — and to take down the men she thinks are responsible for his abduction, one by one.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 41% **Audience:** 45%

Drama

The Railway Man

Director. Jonathan Teplitzky

Stars. Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman

Based on the bestselling autobiography, The Railway Man tells the epic true story of Eric Lomax (Colin Firth), a British Army officer who is tormented as a prisoner of war at a Japanese labour camp during the Second World War. Decades later, Lomax and his beautiful love interest Patti (Nicole Kidman) discover that the Japanese interpreter responsible for much of his treatment is still alive and set out to confront him.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 65% **Audience:** 73%

Drama

Nymphomaniac

Director. Lars von Trier

Stars. Stellan Skarsgård, Charlotte Gainsbourg

Nymphomaniac: Volume I is the story of Joe (Charlotte Gainsbourg), a self-diagnosed nymphomaniac who is discovered badly beaten in an alley by an older bachelor, Seligman (Stellan Skarsgård), who takes her into his home. As he tends to her wounds, she recounts the erotic story of her adolescence and young-adulthood (portrayed in flashback by newcomer Stacy Martin).

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 80% **Audience:** 89%

Mystery & Suspense

Blue Ruin

Director. Jeremy Saulnier

Stars. Macon Blair, Amy Hargreaves

Blue Ruin is a classic American revenge story that recently won the International Critics Prize at Cannes. The film follows a mysterious outsider whose quiet life is turned upside down when he returns to his childhood home to carry out an act of vengeance. Proving himself an amateur assassin, he winds up in a brutal fight to protect his estranged family.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** 85%

Hollywood

Jackson changes name of final Hobbit film

The final instalment of the blockbuster Hobbit film trilogy has been given a new name, director Peter Jackson announced on Thursday.

The movie was to have been released this year under the title, The Hobbit: There and Back Again, but has been re-named The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies, the New Zealand filmmaker said on his Facebook page.

It is due for release in North America on December 17, bringing to a climax the story started in 2012's The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey and last year's The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. "We decided to keep an open mind until a cut of the film was ready to look at," Jackson said. "We reached that point last week, and after viewing the movie, we all agreed there is now one title that feels completely appropriate. And so, The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies it is."

AFP

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The sequel to The Amazing Spider-Man is gaining a lot of buzz for its bounty of baddies, and with more than 50 years of pulp-fiction history, the comic-book character certainly has many to choose from. At Metro, we only feel it's our responsibility to inform the public of the upcoming blockbuster's nefarious criminals.

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

The villains of Spider-Man

Green Goblin

Alias: The Goblin, Harry Osborn

Played by: Dane DeHaan

The folklore: The genetically ill heir to unethical Oscorp Industries, Harry Osborn seeks vengeance on Spidey after the webslinger refuses a potentially life-altering blood transfusion. In the Marvel universe, after taking a formula, Osborn gets enhanced strength and equips himself with a "goblin glider," exploding pumpkin bombs and, consequently, a pretty knockout Halloween costume.

First comic book appearance: 1965 (Amazing Spider-Man #31)

Electro

Alias: Maxwell Dillon

Played by: Jamie Foxx

The Folklore: An electrical engineer that accidentally gains mutagenic powers that enables him to capacitate electricity (and then shoot it from his fingertips, naturally), Electro turns from a shy, introverted Spider-Man fan to power-hungry vengeance seeker who unites with the Green Goblin in order to gain fame.

First comic book appearance: 1964 (Amazing Spider-Man #9)

The Rhino

Alias: "Horn-head", Aleksei Sytsevich

Played by: Paul Giamatti

The Folklore: The Rhino may historically be a Russian thug that participated in an experiment that bonded his skin to be hard as nails but in this film, he teams up with Goblin and gets outfitted with a heavily-armoured suit that enables him to become a raging, machine gun-toting maniac of destruction.

First comic book appearance: 1966 (Amazing Spider-Man #41)

Nothing but bad guys

Producer Avi Arad has announced The Amazing Spider-Man franchise will spin off a movie featuring Spidey's villains called The Sinister Six. Here's a peek at who may (or may not) make up the other three mischief-makers:

Vulture – An electromagnetic tailored body harness allows this legendary Spider-Man crook great strength and the ability to fly despite his deceptively mature age.

Suggested Casting: Larry David

Kraven the Hunter – A maniacal Russian hunter with superhuman strength, Kraven wants to defeat Spider-Man to prove he's the greatest gamesman in the world.

Suggested Casting: Phil Robertson from Duck Dynasty

Mysterio – According to folklore, this creepy illusionist isn't much more than a frustrated failed magician with some sort of goldfish bowl over his head. One presumes his backstory will grow darker in the days leading up to The Sinister Six.

Suggested Casting: Music performer deadmau5

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National Canadian Film Day. Homegrown cinema lovers have plenty to choose from on April 29

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

"For the past nine years, Reel Canada has been introducing young people and new Canadians to great Canadian films and the response has been overwhelmingly positive," says Jack Blum, executive director of Reel Canada.

This year on Tuesday, April 29, the Can-con boosters are kicking their outreach up a notch with the establishment of National Canadian Film Day.

"We thought it would be great for one day a year to extend that invitation to all Canadians," Blum says.

"We just believe that if we can overcome the 'awareness' barrier created by the huge promotional budgets Hollywood commands for its product, that people will embrace our fantastic legacy of great cinema."

To help celebrate the inaugural National Canadian Film Day, Cineplex has donated screens to show a variety of homegrown films, including the festival hit C.R.A.Z.Y. and Paul Gross's Passchendaele.

The Reel Canada website boasts that great Canadian films will be "available in more communities on a single day than ever before in our nation's history."

"There are screenings happening all over the country," says Blum, "literally in every province and territory as well as online and on TV."

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SNA4725A — 2013 HONDA ACCORD — $31,998 — $204 B/W 5.99% for 96 mos.

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SNA0168A — 2010 TOYOTA 4RUNNER — $33,998 — $274 B/W 5.99% for 72 mos.

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SNP9504A — 2013 NISSAN MAXIMA — $26,998 — $173 B/W 5.99% for 96 mos.

130236B — 2011 NISSAN QUEST — $26,998 — $218 B/W 5.99% for 72 mos.

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SNP2981A — 2011 BUICK REGAL — $18,998 — $154 B/W 5.99% for 72 mos.

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SNP2627A — 2013 FORD EXPLORER — $34,998 — $224 B/W 5.99% for 96 mos.

SNA2576A — 2013 BMW 335xi — $46,998 — $300 B/W 5.99% for 96 mos.

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SNP3231A — 2013 NISSAN ROGUE — $23,998 — $154 B/W 5.99% for 96 mos.

3 TO CHOOSE FROM!

SNP5741A — 2010 NISSAN MURANO — $23,998 — $193 B/W 5.99% for 72 mos.

SNA5144A — 2013 HONDA CRV — $36,998 — $236 B/W 5.99% for 96 mos.

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APR. 25 TO THURS., MAY 1. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7-9:40
3 Days to Kill (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:20-9:50
300: Rise of an Empire (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:25-10
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-7:05-9:45
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10 Mon 1:30-4:10 Tue 7:10 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:55
Non-Stop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-7-9:50
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:55
Philomena (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:15-7:15
RoboCop (PG) Fri-Sun 9:45 Tue-Thu 9:45
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sat 12:45-4:25-8:15 Sun 8:15 Mon-Thu 12:45-4:25-8:15

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:15
Bears (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:45-5:55-8:05-10:10
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:40 Mon-Tue 1:40-4:05-7:45-10:15 Wed 4:05-7:45-10:15 Thu 1:40-4:05-7:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:50-6:55-10 Thu 12:45-3:50
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25
Divergent (PG) Fri-Wed 6:40-9:55
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Sat 12:25-3-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:25-3 Mon-Thu 12:25-3-5:30-8:05-10:35
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) Sat 11
The Last Unicorn (STC) Sun 4-7
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 10:55
National Theatre Live: King Lear (STC) Thu 7
Noah (PG) Fri 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15 Sat 3:55-7:05-10:15 Sun 7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15
The Other Woman (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:35-4:45-7:25-10:05 No Passes Wed 4:45-7:25-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:35-4:45-7:25-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:35-7:35-10:20
Rio 2 (G) Fri 1:35-4:10 Sat 11-1:35-4:10 Sun 1:35-4:10 Mon-Wed 1:20-4 Thu 1:35-4:10
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:15-9:50
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:35
Transcendence (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:30

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 8
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 12:50-4-7-10 Mon-Wed 5:20-8:20 Thu 8:30
Dom Hemingway (14A) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-6:40-9:40 Mon 9:30 Tue-Wed 6:10-8:50 Thu 6:10-8:40
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
The Other Woman (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 5:40-8:30 No Passes Thu 5:40-8:20
Super Duper Alice Cooper (18A) Mon 7
Tim's Vermeer (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8
Transcendence (PG) Fri 7:20-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:20-10:10 Mon-Wed 5:50-8:40 Thu 5:50

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

2 States (PG) Fri-Sun 12-6-9:20 Mon-Thu 6-9:20
The Amazing Spider-Man 2: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Thu 10:15
Bears (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7-9:10
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:45-7:20-10:15 Mon 4:15-7:20-10:15 Tue-Thu 4:45-7:20-10:15
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Sun 10-3:50 Mon-Thu 3:50
Captain America: The Winter Soldier — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 3-9:45
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-1-4-6:50-10-10:15 Mon 4-10-10:15 Tue 4-6:50-10-10:15 Wed 4-10-10:15 Thu 4-6:50-10-10:15
Draft Day (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
A Fighting Man (STC) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:40-10
God's Not Dead (PG) Fri-Sun 10:20-1:20-4:15-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:20
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sun 10:45-12:40-3:20-6:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:20-9:30
Jatt James Bond (STC) Fri-Sun 1-5-9 Mon-Thu 5-9
Noah (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05
The Other Woman (14A) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:10-3:45-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:25
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:25-10:05
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:10-3:40-6:10 Mon-Thu 3:10-3:40-6:10
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 10:10-1:15-4:10-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:40
Super Duper Alice Cooper (18A) Mon 7
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:10
Transcendence (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 7-9:55
Transcendence: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-6:30 Mon-Wed 6:30 Thu 3

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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Thu 7-10:15
Bears (G) Fri 1-3:45-7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 10:30-1-3:45-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 1-3:45-7:20-9:40
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri 1:40-4:20-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:40-4:20-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:30-10
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri 12-3:15-6:30 Sat-Sun 10-12-3:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 12-3:15-6:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 9:45 Fri-Wed 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Thu 12:30-3:45
Divergent (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-6:50
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-4:10-7:10-9:50 Sun 10:15-12:45-4:10-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:10-9:50
The Other Woman (14A) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30 Sat 10:15-1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30
The Quiet One (STC) Fri-Thu 10:10
Rio 2 (G) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 10:15-4 Mon-Thu 4
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-6:45-9:30
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (18A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:50-10:20
Transcendence (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:20-9:20

Globe Cinema 617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Finding Vivian Maier (PG) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:10-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
The Invisible Woman (PG) Sat-Sun 1-3:20
Nymphomaniac: Volume I (R) Fri-Thu 6:50
Nymphomaniac: Volume II (R) Fri-Thu 9:15

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 7:30-10:45
The Amazing Spider-Man 2: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:20
Bad Words (14A) Fri-Wed 10
Bears (G) Fri-Wed 12-2:05-4:10-6:15-8:20-10:25 Thu 4:10-6:15-8:20-10:25
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3-5:20-7:40-10:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:45
Captain America: The Winter Soldier — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 3-10 Mon-Wed 4:20-10:10 Thu 3:25
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Wed 7:10 Thu 7:10-10:20 Wed 12-3-10:20 Thu 12:50-4
Divergent (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
Draft Day (PG) Fri-Sun 8-10:40 Mon-Tue 7:35-10:15 Wed 10:15
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Sat 12:25-2:45-5:10-7:35-10:10 Sun 2:45-5:10-7:35-10:10 Mon-Thu 12:25-2:45-5:10-7:35-10:10
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:10-4:55-7:20-10:10 Sun 11:35-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:40 Mon-Wed 1:10-3:55-7:30-10:30 Thu 3:55-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) Sat 11
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-2-4:35 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 10:55
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Mon-Thu 12:30
National Theatre Live: King Lear (STC) Thu 7
Noah (PG) Fri 1:05-4:20-7:30-10:35 Sat 4:20-7:30-10:35 Sun-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:30-10:35
Oculus (14A) Fri-Sun 2:55-5:35-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:35
The Other Woman (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:05-2:45-5:20-8-10:30
The Princess Bride (STC) Sun 12:45
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sat 1:05-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Sun-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:45-6:30 Thu 12:40-3:45
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri 11:50-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:15 Sat 11-1:40-5:05-7:40-10:15 Sun 11:50-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50

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Stk# 140149D — 85,451 KM's — $15,804

2012 Toyota Matix A/C Cruise P/ WindowsP
Stk# 2092 — 50,854 KM's — $15,805

2011 Buick Lucerne CX Luxury Sedan
Stk# 2032 — 54,299 KM's — $15,897

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2009 Honda Pilot EX-L 4WD Leather/Sunroof
Stk# 140323A — 110,751 KM's — $24,914

2013 Ford Escape SE 2.0 L ECOBOOST 14,000KM
Stk# 140323A — 14,582 KM's — $25,649

2012 Toyota Venza AWD 16 ,000KM
Stk#140005A — 16,480 KM's — $27,562

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Stk#P2026A — 52,947 KM's — $28,422

2013 Toyota Rav4 LE (A6) Low Km, Local Vehicle
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Stk#140057A — 120,193 KM's — $26,866

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Stk#140182A — 56,193 KM's — $28,636

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Stk#130255B — 128,734 KM's — $29,824

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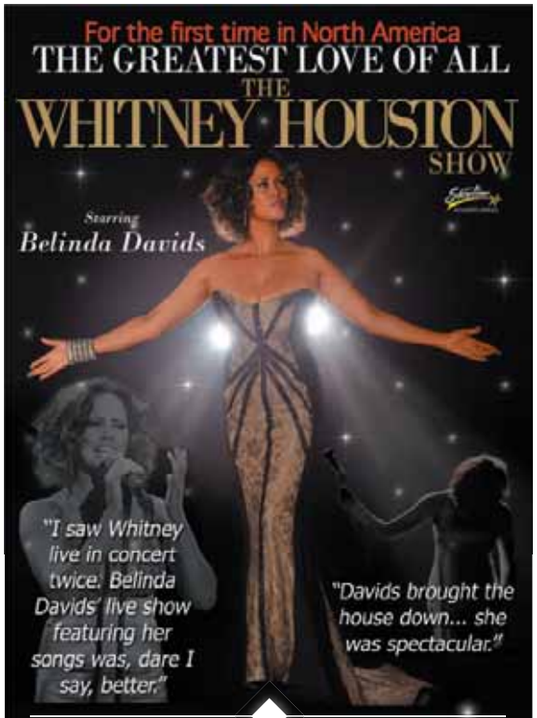

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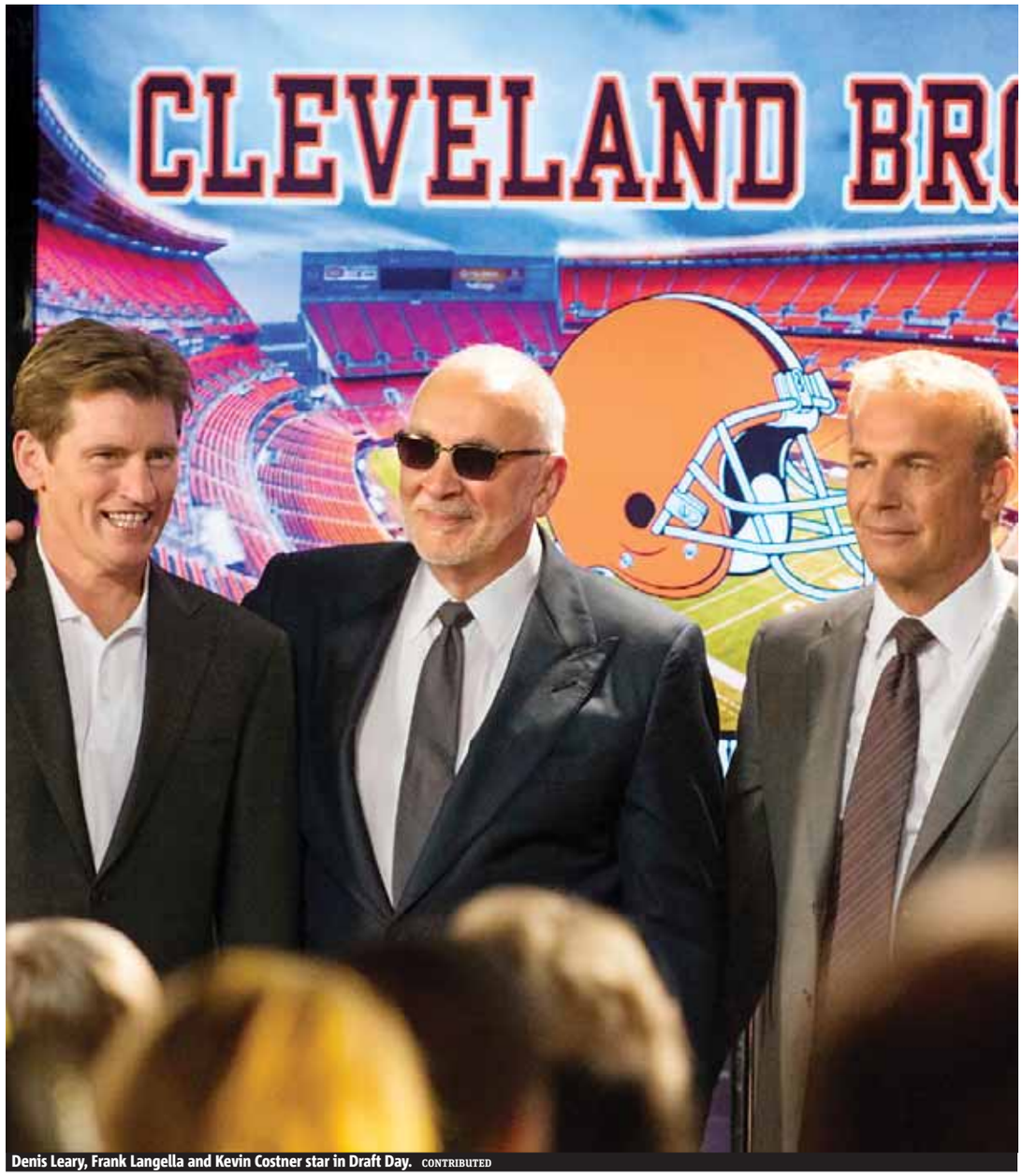

Denis Leary, Frank Langella and Kevin Costner star in Draft Day. CONTRIBUTED

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No Films Showing Today (STC) Thu

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2 States (PG) Fri-Sat 2:05-6-9:30 Sun-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:40
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:20
Bears (G) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:30-4:40-7:10-9:25 Sun-Thu 1:10-3:30-5:45-7:55-10
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun-Wed 12:40-3:05-5:30-7:50-10:10 Thu 5:25-8:05-10:35 Thu 12:40-3:05
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Sat 1-4:10-7:55 Sun-Tue 1:30-6:25-9:55 Wed 6:25-9:55 Thu 1:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-3:25-6:40-9:55 Sun-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:20
Disco Singh (PG) Fri-Sat 2:40-6:55-10:05 Sun-Wed 2:50-6:10-9:35 Thu 2:50-9:35
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sat 11:35-2:20-4:55-7:35-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:30-10:05
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) Sat 11
Jatt James Bond (STC) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:15-9:20 Sun-Thu 1:40-5:50-9:10
Oculus (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:30-7:15-10 Sun-Thu 1:15-4-6:55-9:40
The Other Woman (14A) No Passes Fri-Sat 11:30-2:15-5-7:50-10:30 No Passes Sun-Tue 1-3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Wed 3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Thu 1-3:45-6:45-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Sat 12-2:35-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:25-6:40-9:25
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sat 11:45 Sun-Thu 1:20
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:25-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sun-Thu 3:55-6:35-9:15
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (18A) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:30-9:20
Transcendence (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:20-6:25-9:30 Sun-Wed 12:35-3:30-6:50-9:50 Thu 12:35-3:30-6:40-10:10

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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 8
Bears (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:40-4:50-6:55-9 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:35
Draft Day (PG) Fri 1:05-3:45-6:45-9:35 Sat 3:45-6:45-9:35 Sun 1:05-3:45-6:45-9:35 Thu 5:25
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-7:15-9:55 Tue-Thu 5:45-8:45
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:30-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25
The Last Unicorn (STC) Mon 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 10:55
The Other Woman (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:15-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sun 12:40 Mon-Thu 5:35
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:20-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 8:15
Super Duper Alice Cooper (18A) Mon 7
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:45
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3 songs for the weekend

Sound Check

ALAN CROSS

For your listening pleasure, some Canadian rockers and a mellow electronic melody

JPNSGRLS

Smalls/ JPNSGRLS

First, their name is pronounced Japanese Girls. Second, they're not from Japan; they're from Vancouver. And finally, there's not a single female among the four members. Are we clear?

Perfectly Sane/ The Mohrs

A heavy-hitting rock band with members hailing from Winnipeg, managed and mentored by Hawksley Workman. If you like grunge and '80s rock, this will work fine.

Talk Is Cheap/ Chet Faker

Nicholas James Murphy — a Chet Baker fan who has self-esteem issues — has already won awards as an electronica artist at home in Australia. Let's see what he can do on this side of the Pacific.

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to listen to Alan's recommended songs this week.

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Video game review

Name. Trials Fusion

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Rated. Everyone 10+

The challenge is to keep your motocross bike balanced as it hurtles through a series of ludicrous obstacle courses that may start off with cries of exhilaration but soon transition into comical wails of defeat as you crumble into a neck-breaking demise. Dying repeatedly may sound boring, but simple controls and an inventive use of fountains, aerial tracks, and teeter-totter devices keep it interesting. Casual users, unfortunately, are too quickly left behind when air grabs are added as the difficulty skyrockets, becoming a diversion for hardcore gamers only.

KRIS ABEL

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Canadian TV shows hit their stride

New generation of showrunners. Series like Flashpoint, Bitten and Orphan Black point the way for new TV masterminds

The cast of Bitten, including Laura Vandervoort as female werewolf Elena Michaels. Showrunner Daegan Fryklind participated in the first year of the Canadian Film Centre's Showrunner Bootcamp. MATT BARNES/SYFY

One summer morning, Mark Ellis and Stephanie Morgenstern woke up abruptly to their clock radio blaring news about a hostage taking at Toronto's Union Station.

They went downstairs to watch the drama unfold on television. After a tense standoff, and much to the horror of bystanders, the assailant was shot by an emergency task force officer.

"It was really a shock seeing this in real time. And one question that went through our minds was, what was it like for the police officer who took that shot? What's the rest of his day going to be like?" Ellis says in an interview.

That moment translated into one of Canada's most successful TV exports, Flashpoint. The show ran for five seasons on CTV and was licensed in more than 100 territories globally.

It also kick-started a newfound confidence from Canadian TV producers that their stories could not only have broad appeal but also make a pile of money. Finally Canada could offer the kind of slick, pyrotechnic police procedural that was on par or better than its Hollywood counterparts. Perhaps more importantly, Ellis and Morgenstern helped to birth a new generation of screenwriters who wanted to produce their own stories, also known as showrunners.

The new golden age of television is due in large part to the increasing prominence of the writer as the creative executive on television shows; the person ultimately responsible for that singular, passionate vision.

Already 2014 has been shaping up to be something of a breakout year for Canadian TV.

The lineup includes Vancouverite Daegan Fryklind's Bitten, the Toronto-shot werewolf thriller starring Laura Vandervoort (Smallville's Supergirl) on Space channel. It is joined by Greg Spottiswood's well-received drama Remedy on Global. And Season 2 of Graeme Manson's Toronto-produced science fiction thriller Orphan Black premiered last weekend after winning 10 Canadian Screen Awards for the first season.

Meanwhile, Ellis and Morgenstern's next moves are being watched closely in the industry as the married couple have several irons in the fire, working on two series simultaneously for competitors CBC and CTV. One of them will be a detective show remake of a Belgian TV crime thriller.

"I think you're seeing television really explode because, finally, the storytellers have control over the story; it's become a writer's medium," says Maureen Parker, executive director of the Writers Guild of Canada, which gave the 2013 Showrunner of the Year award to Ellis and Morgenstern.

Perhaps too slowly for some, Canada is emerging into its own star culture for writers. Showrunners such as Tassie Cameron of the cop drama Rookie Blue and Manson of Orphan Black, while not household names, have become more widely recognized.

In the movie industry, the director is god. In television, it's the showrunner.

"Writers tell stories. And if you look at some of the most successful series, they are guided by writers who are truly visionary, who have this extraordinary skill," says Rob Labelle, the executive producer of the Canadian-produced cop drama Motive.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in Hollywood. Considering these are the typically unassuming folk who write TV shows, the cult of the runner in Los Angeles is remarkable. Familiar names such as J.J. Abrams, the creator of Lost, Shonda Rhimes of Grey's Anatomy, Vince Gilligan of Breaking Bad or Joss Whedon of Buffy the Vampire Slayer will elicit massive lineups at any fan expo.

That's not quite the case in Canada, where smaller markets, a less risk-taking attitude, and structural and economic realities have contributed to a less robust star system.

In the U.S., TV shows are produced by broadcasters such as ABC or CBS, and studios such as Universal or Warner Brothers. Cable companies such as HBO and Showtime and online channels such as Netflix have also upped the ante with critically acclaimed productions.

Producers south of the border have also traditionally been more willing to roll the dice, giving the writer more creative leeway.

In Canada, TV shows are usually shepherded by small and medium-sized independent producers and sold to broadcast networks. That means smaller budgets, typically, for a smaller market. And broadcasters have traditionally been less experimental, holding tighter control over the writers' room.

The need to develop talent has not gone unnoticed by the industry. For the last two years the Canadian Film Centre has sent promising writers to what it calls the Showrunner Bootcamp. In the inaugural year, Bitten's Fryklind participated, which helped her to develop her own show for the Space channel. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Orphan Black

"I'm happy we can do this at home, not shooting Orphan Black in Los Angeles. It allows us to put the hype behind us and concentrate on making a great show with an incredible infrastructure and crew behind us. But at the end of the day as a writer, I can tell you there's really no better time to be in television."

Graeme Manson, co-creator and showrunner for sci-fi thriller Orphan Black

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Really

Chalke and Blair to team up for Amazon Studios

Sarah Chalke and Selma Blair will co-star in Really, a new comedy pilot in development at Amazon Studios, the online retailer's content development division. The series will follow a group of 30-something friends living in Chicago.

At the centre of Really will be Lori, a lawyer played by Chalke (Scrubs, How I Met Your Mother) and her husband Jed, a neurologist played by Jay Chandrasekhar. Their friends include three other couples: Joanna and Fred, Margaret and Mike and Hayes and Alison. When Jed finds out that Mike and Joanna are having an affair, the dynamics within the group are thrown off balance.

Sarah Chalke JEWEL SAMAD/AFP PHOTO

Selma Blair, who has been honing her comedy skills recently in the series Anger Management, will appear in the role of Joanna, who is cheating on her husband with Mike, played by Travis Schuldt (Scrubs). Luka Jones (Her), Lindsay Sloane (Weeds), Hayes Macarthur (Go On) and Collette Wolfe (Cougar Town) will round out the cast. AFP

Eight-hour miniseries

Robert Knepper boards History's Texas Rising

Robert Knepper VALERY HACHE/AFP PHOTO

Robert Knepper, an actor known for his roles on Prison Break and Heroes, will join Bill Paxton, Ray Liotta and Olivier Martinez on the set of Texas Rising, an eight-hour miniseries on the creation of the Texas Rangers in the 19th century.

Knepper will play Empresario Buckley, the sole representative of the law in a Texas town. AFP

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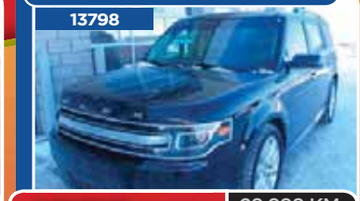

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Asher Roth graduates with RetroHash

School's out. I Love College rapper returns to the mic with a more mature sound

MAX PRINZ
Metro World News

It's been five years since Asher Roth released a full-length LP, but he says he has no regrets about taking his time. BROCK FETCH

After five years, Asher Roth has released his second full-length album, RetroHash. The rapper, best known for the hit single I Love College, has a new address, a new mindset and, hopefully, some new hit songs.

Roth's first album, Asleep in the Bread Aisle, was released in 2009 under the Island Def Jam record label. This second album, however, is largely self-released.

"It was just a matter of finding the right home," Roth says. "No worrying about the marketplace or any trying to get into the head of the consumer that the business tries to do. Just really concentrating on making dope music that I like and that my friends like, and that's it."

After being mostly absent from the rap scene for five years, Roth says he is very excited to complete his long transition and finally release a new album. He has released four mixtapes and stresses that there was never a lull in his creativity.

"I don't think that five years stepped away hurt," Roth says. "More so, if anything, I think it helped me. It allowed me to kind of step away and grow without feeling those pressures."

Roth says that RetroHash, produced by the Blended Babies, is evidence of his maturation. Living in L.A. helped him grow up, and gave his album a fresh feeling of renewal.

The album was made in a very laid-back manner.

"It was the way it was supposed to be, man," Roth says. "No sitting around, A&Rs checking me saying, 'You need to do this, you need to do that.' It was literally hanging out in the living room, recording vocals in the living room."

RetroHash offers the chance for Roth to step away from I Love College and allow fans to see more of him. While he can't blame fans who only know that hit, he says he hopes they take a closer look.

"They might not want you to grow up sometimes," Roth says. "But I really do think I have something to offer, especially in the hip-hop world. That's why I'm excited for this record; I feel like it's something that will allow people to look at me in a different light."

The lead single, Tangerine Girl, bears little resemblance to I Love College. Roth speaks excitedly of its creation.

"You can feel it's a very natural record, nothing's very forced," Roth says. "I just love to create, and I feel like with that record, you feel like it was fun to make."

Also different is the way Roth plans to celebrate the release of this album. His band will play RetroHash live, in its entirety, at performances in Philadelphia, Boston and New York. He says the idea came to him after taking in several listening sessions.

"From that experience I was like, 'You know what would be really dope is if we played the album live for the first time,'" Roth says. "Obviously, it will be a different experience than hearing recorded music. But, you know, I love live music."

New songs, new feel

"I feel like it's something that will allow people to look at me in a different light."

Asher Roth, on his new album RetroHash

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HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTENTS OF THREE CONTAINERS, LUMBER, PAVING STONE, PATIO BLOCKS, RETAINING WALL STONE, BATHROOM VANITY CABINETS, DRYWALL, LYNDEN HARDWOOD DOORS, DECORATIVE TILE, PORCELAINSINKS, NEOTILE URBAN GROOVE, NEO COMPOSITE DECK TILES, GOLDEN SELECT CLICK LAMINATE FLOORING, GOLDEN SELECT GLASS MOSAIC WALL TILE, NEO SPLASH STAINLESS STEEL TILE, GOLDEN SELECT CLICK VINYL TILE, NEO SPLASH GLASS AND STONE FUSION TILE, GOLDEN SELECT GLASS AND STONE MOSAIC WALL TILES, GOLDEN SELECT CLIP-ON BASEBOARD MOULDING KITS, OVE SHOWER ENCLOSURE, 3 TIER INDOOR/OUTDOOR FOUNTAIN, CARAVAN INSTANT CANOPY, PORTABLE FIREPIT, ATLANTIS RIVERFLOW LAVATORY FAUCET, PFISTER AINSLEY PULL DOWN KITCHEN FAUCET, POULIN PRO GAS LAWN MOWERS, HOMAK 27" 3 PIECE PROFESSIONAL TOOLCHEST, CHAMPION 2000 WATT GENERATORS, KARCHER GASOLINE PRESSURE WASHERS, SNAP-ON 20 GALLON AIR COMPRESSORS, SNAP-ON HEAVY DUTY STORAGE RACKS, STANLEY WET/DRY SHOP VAC'S, DEWALT DRILL SET, DREMEL DRILL, COBRA JR. CABLE CHAIN, BLACK AND DECKER ROUTER KIT, ALUMINUM AND WOODEN STEP LADDERS, ASSORTED HAND TOOLS, MOTOR TREND LED SPOTLIGHTS, BOOSTER CABLES, OUTDOOR EXTENSION CORDS, AND MUCH MORE…
HOUSEHOLD GOODS FREEMOTION TREADMILL, FREEMOTION ELIPTICAL, ASSORTED VENDING MACHINES, ASSORTED BICYCLES, BISSELL PROHEAT UPRIGHT VACUUM, HUSKY POWER WASHER, PROTECTOR BY FIRST ALERT HOME SAFES, INFRARED GAZEBO HEATER, POWER HEAT INFRA RED QUARTZ HEATERS, VIVA HIDDEN BOTTLE WATER COOLERS, BIONAIRE HUMIDIFIERS, OUTDOOR EXTENSION CORDS, GARDENING TOOLS, CASES OF WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID, ASSORTED MICROWAVES, PLUSH TOWEL SETS, PLUSH BLANKETS, NATURAL PILLOWS, TRANQUIL NIGHTS BED SETS, NAUTICA PILLOWS, KITCHEN & LAUNDRY SUPPLIES, ASSORTED GROCERIES, NEW BOOKS, DINNERWARE SETS OF MIKASA, CHELSEA, AURORA & ELITE STONEWARE, 10 PIECE STAINLESS STEEL COOKWARE SET'S, RUBBERMAID FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS, BEVERAGE SETS, CROCKPOT, KENMORE TOASTER OVEN, BLACK AND DECKER 2 IN 1 FOOD PROCESSOR, BAGBOY GOLF PUSH CART, CELESTRON COMETRON 114AZ TELESCOPE, RL-PRO REMOTE CONTROL CARS, LEGO SETS, COLLECTOR BARBIE SETS, LARGE SELECTION OF PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES, NEW CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR FROM: PARADOX,TRUE NORTH,AVIA,NIKE, ADIDAS, PUMA, DIESEL, MARMOT, CALVIN KLEIN, LACOSTE, NORTH FACE, LADY HATHAWAY, BLUE HARBOR, TRUE NORTH, WINTER BOOTS, BIKE HELMETS, BOLLE SNOW GOGGLES AND HELMETS & MORE…
NEW FURNITURE WICKER 6 PIECE PATIO SET WITH TAN CUSHIONS, BROADMOORE BENNINGTON QUEEN STORAGE BED WITH HEADBOARD, FOOTBOARD AND FRAME, BROWN LEATHER ROCKER RECLINERS, 7 PIECE DINING SET WITH MARBLETOP TABLE AND LEATHER AND WOOD CHAIRS, DARK BROWN FAUX SUEDE CHAISE/SOFA SECTIONAL, TAN FABRIC SOFA, MASTER MASSAGE PORTABLE MASSAGE TABLE, WHITE WOODEN MEDIA CONSOLE WITH GLASS DOORS, BROWN LEATHER KIDS RECLINER, MARTIN ST. JAMES STORAGE CONSOLE, WHALEN SAXON COMPUTER/WRITING DESKS, LARGE DARK BROWN ROUND ACCENT TABLE, WHALEN LARSEN TV CONSOLE, BROWN LEATHER 2 PIECE SOFA SECTIONAL, GREY FABRIC SOFA, BLACK GLASSTOP 3 TIER WATERFALL TV STAND, WHALEN WOODLAND GAMING THEATRE TV STAND, TECHCRAFT TV CONSOLES, LEATHER AND CHROME BARSTOOLS, TRUE INNOVATIONS BLACK LEATHER OFFICE CHAIRS, WHALEN EVOLUTION 3 IN 1 TV STANDS, WALL MOUNT ELECTRIC FIREPLACES, ASSORTED LEATHER BAR STOOLS, CEILING FANS, ASSORTED LAMPS, FLAT PANEL LED DIGITAL FIREPLACE, LARGE FRAMED MIRRORS, ASSORTED DECORATIVE WALL ART & VASES, SUNBEAM DESK LAMPS, BOUTIQUE SHAG AREA RUGS IN ASSORTED SIZES, DESKS AND WORKSTATIONS, LUGGAGE SETS, REEBOK WHEELED HOCKEY BAGS, PLIMPTON ARC LAMPS, LUGGAGE, STACKABLE CHAIRS, OUTDOOR DECORATIVE PLANTERS, DELUXE CRYSTAL CHANDELIER, DELUXE COACH LIGHTS, SEALY PILLOWTOP MATTRESSES & BOX SPRING SETS (KING,QUEEN, DOUBLE) PLUS MUCH MORE…
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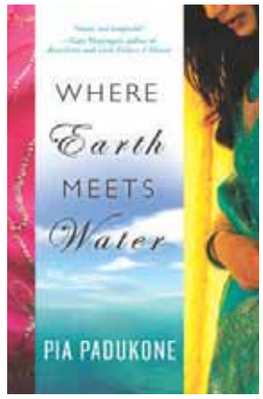
Triple twists of fate spark debut novel of loss and survival

Pia Padukone didn't outline her novel, she just sat down each morning and wrote, without knowing what would happen to her characters. CONTRIBUTED



Unseen forces. First-time novelist explores role of destiny through a man rattled by two close calls with death

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News

Author Pia Padukone has personal experiences with narrowly escaping death. "The summer before I was a junior in college, I worked as a temp in Tower One of the World Trade Center. My last day was Friday and I was supposed to fly to London to study abroad on Wednesday. Tuesday, 9/11 happened," she tells us.

And that's not all. Padukone was also in India when a tsunami struck the coast in 2004 (luckily she was about two hundred miles north) and she was also present at the 2013 Boston Marathon cheering on her husband. "It definitely got me thinking about what it means to have fate look after you," she says.

Such is the basis for her novel, Where Earth Meets Water (out next month). The main character, Karom, narrowly escapes dying in both 9/11 and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and is struggling with survivor's guilt. His girlfriend prompts him to travel to India, hoping he will find peace there, which leads him on an unexpected journey.

For Padukone, the very act of writing Where Earth Meets Water took her on an unexpected journey as well. Instead of outlining it beforehand, she just sat down each morning and wrote, not knowing what would happen to her characters. "The book started as a short story, which is actually the first chapter of the book. After I finished the short story, I thought to myself, there's a lot going on here and I'm not done. I want to see where this goes. So I just wrote it," she says.

Long and short of it

"The book started as a short story, which is actually the first chapter of the book. After I finished the short story, I thought to myself, there's a lot going on here and I'm not done. I want to see where this goes. So I just wrote it."
Pia Padukone

Padukone says one of the underlying messages of the book is finding peace where you least expect it. "I personally love intertwined stories. I love the randomness of how people meet up and how their storylines become connected," she says. "Sometimes you can find peace in someone or something you never expected to."

Living in New York City all her life, Padukone finds peace in a place most of us take for granted: "The only place I can really concentrate and read is on the subway. Even though there are loud conversations, performers, people playing music and babies crying, I need that ambient noise," she reveals.

Whatever your thoughts on fate and however you plan on finding peace this summer, Where Earth Meets Water can provide an escape that not only takes you around the globe, but also makes you think about how unseen forces affect your own life.

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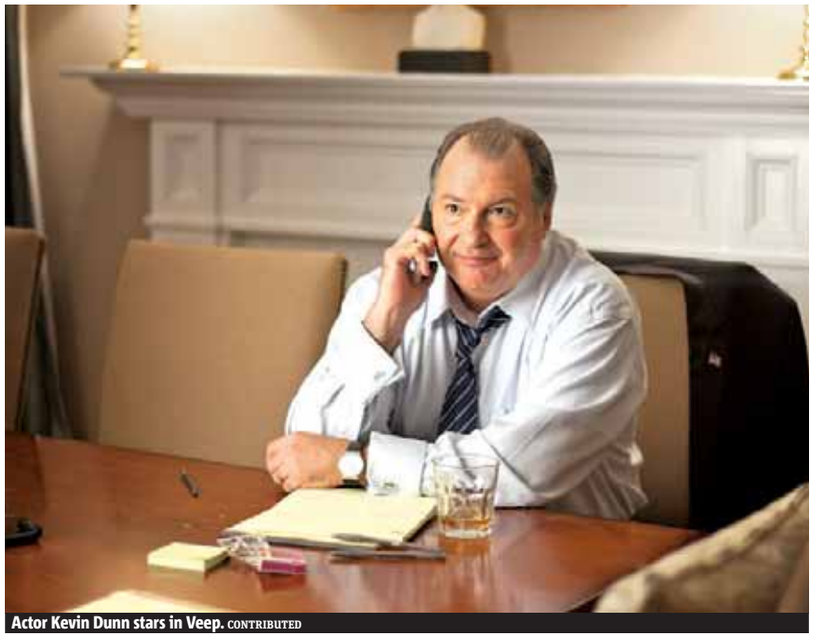
‘It’s like all bets are off’ on Veep

Kevin Dunn. Veteran actor emerges as fan favourite this season on HBO’s popular political comedy series



Actor Kevin Dunn stars in Veep. CONTRIBUTED

Veteran character actor Kevin Dunn, who’s known for having a gentle, genial demeanour, is relishing being able to swear all the time on the expletive-rich political comedy series Veep.

“It’s pretty liberating,” the 57-year-old said with a laugh in a telephone interview.

“You spend most of your time, depending on the project, toeing a certain line — but with Veep it’s like all bets are off.”

The Chicago native plays Ben Caffrey, chief of staff to the U.S. president, on the Emmy-nominated HBO series that’s into its third season and was recently renewed for a fourth. It airs Sundays at 10:30 p.m. EST on HBO Canada.

Ben first appeared on the show last season and became a blunt, curmudgeonly confidante to Vice-President Selina Meyer, played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

While Selina and the rest of her comical staff race around in a foul-mouthed frenzy of crisis management and scheming, Ben sits back and responds to how everyone else is reacting.

“Ben can calm her down a bit because he’s such a cynic and such a pragmatist, even more cynical than she is, and he’s able to boil things down to the way things are and the way things have to be,” said Dunn, who played a police major on season 1 of True Detective.

“So he does have her ear and she does trust him somewhat, I think.”

That trust can only go so far, though.

Ben has a bipolar side and self-medicates with pills and a nine-cup Thermos filled with who knows what.

And as Dunn puts it, despite Ben’s collected demeanour, sometimes “you think he’s just going to go off on a bender somewhere and you won’t be able to find him.”

“It’s like everyone on the show — you don’t know what their tipping point is, or when they might lose all control of their faculties. They all have this kind of Achilles thing where you get that uneasy feeling that something is going to go wrong.”

Ben has emerged as a fan favourite this season as he tries to ingratiate himself with Selina, who is building a campaign after the president announced he doesn’t plan to run for re-election in two years.

Like Selina’s staff members, Ben is trying to prove he’s indispensable as she decides who will be her campaign manager.

“Ben has a little bit of a tougher job now, because his meal ticket is going away,” said Dunn. “He has his work cut out for him, because he has to enter the fray and prove to Selina that he could be worth having around in a much more pronounced way.”

Such scenarios are true to life, said Dunn, noting politicians have remarked on how the show taps into the notion that they’re always walking on thin ice and desperate to stay in the game in Washington.

“Everything is always about, ‘Oh, we might have a strong view about something but you can’t really express it or else you’ll be in political trouble.’ It’s all about what the perception of who you are is, and it’s all motivated and guided by public opinion and also money.”

Veep’s fictional world will remain as such, though.

Dunn said politicians have requested to be on the show, feeling it’s an apolitical forum that doesn’t espouse any particular values, “but that’s not going to happen.”

“(The writers) have created their own reality and they don’t want to stray out of that by having stunt casting of actual politicians or people connected to that world in the show.”

Dunn first worked with Louis-Dreyfus on the short-lived ’80s series Day By Day and was close to co-starring with her on Seinfeld after auditioning for the role of George Costanza.

“I think I was on the short list way back when,” said the veteran thespian, who’s worked on dozens of screen projects.

Dunn added he’s “admired her for a long time,” and feels her work just gets better and better — particularly her physical comedy, which shines in the third season of Veep.

“You’ll just be rehearsing or shooting and she just comes up with physical stuff all the time, but it’s directly connected, it makes perfect sense. That’s why (Veep), I think, is so successful and so rare.

“It’s a combination of really very literate writing and then totally caustic, foul language and incredible physical comedy.”

Ben is one of several politicians Dunn has played over the years.

In the 1993 comedy film Dave he played a White House communications director, in the ’95 Oscar-nominated drama Nixon he played the president’s special counsel, and in the miniseries The Path to 9/11 he played National Security Adviser Samuel (Sandy) Berger.

Of all his characters, Veep “absolutely” comes with the most amount of profanity, he said with a laugh.

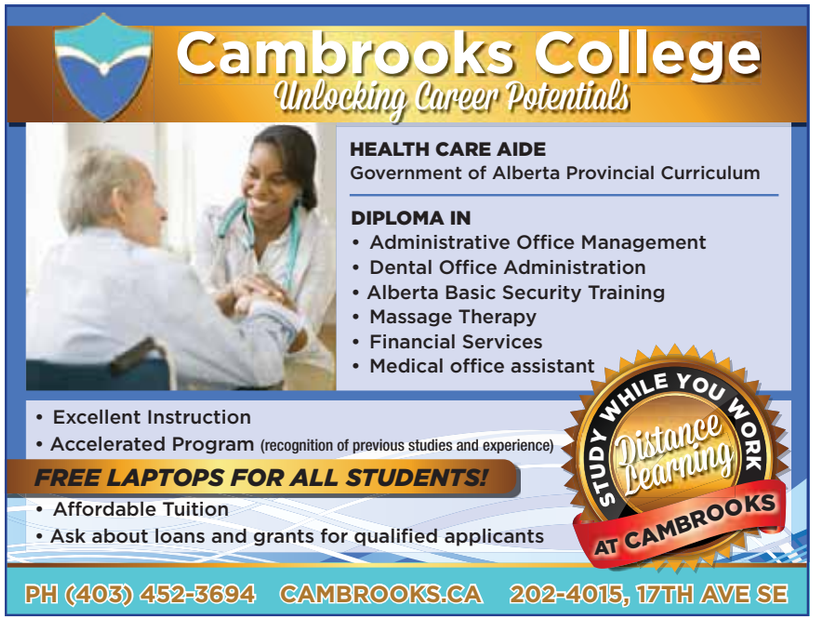
But it’s not gratuitous, Dunn added, noting the writers craft rich zingers and then embellish them with foul language, depending on the character.

“It’s not just everybody swearing away. Everybody has a particular voice and then their insults always land in a different kind of way.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veep’s winning formula

“(The show is) a combination of really very literate writing and then totally caustic, foul language and incredible physical comedy.” Veteran actor Kevin Dunn



Hopefully it’s no Joey. Meg Ryan signs on to narrate How I Met Your Dad

Meg Ryan has agreed to be the narrator of How I Met Your Dad, the spinoff of CBS’s hit show How I Met Your Mother, deadline.com reports.

The actress will provide the off-screen narration in one of the most anticipated pilots of the coming season. This means that the Hollywood actress will voice an older version of Sally, the central character of the spin-off, played by Greta Gerwig. Like Bob Saget, who provided the voice of the future version of Ted in the original series, Ryan will not appear on screen.

Though still best known for her film roles (Sleepless in Seattle, You’ve Got Mail), Meg Ryan has been absent from the silver screen since the release of Serious Moonlight in 2009.

She has had only a handful of TV appearances in recent years, turning up on Curb Your Enthusiasm and Web Therapy.

2014 is expected to mark Ryan’s big comeback, as she is headlining a series in development at NBC for this fall.

The actress will play a cheerful and devoted single mother who decides to return to the New York publishing house where she used to work. Once a successful editor, she now reports to the neurotic 30-year-old who used to be her intern.

To find out whether How I Met Your Dad will join the CBS line-up for the 2014-2015 season, fans will have to wait until the network’s press conference on May 14. AFP

Meg Ryan will provide the off-screen narration in How I Met Your Dad. VALERY HACHE/AFP PHOTO

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Richard Gere

Gere dates Padma Lakshmi

While Richard Gere is still in the process of divorcing Carey Lowell, his wife of 11 years, the Pretty Woman star has reportedly started dating Top Chef host Padma Lakshmi, according to Star magazine. "They're just getting to know each other," a source says, adding that the romance "started very recently." Gere and Lakshmi started spending time together when he headed to New York to work on his current film.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jodie Foster

Jodie Foster marries girlfriend

Jodie Foster is a married woman. The 51-year-old Oscar winner wed girlfriend Alexandra Hedison over the weekend, Foster's publicist confirmed, but offered no other details.

It's the first marriage for Foster, who came out publicly in a rambling, heartfelt speech at the 2013 Golden Globe Awards, where she accepted lifetime achievement honours.

E! says Foster and Hedison, a 44-year-old photographer based in Los Angeles, have been dating since last summer.

Hedison, who was previously linked to Ellen DeGeneres, is also an actress with TV credits including Nash Bridges and The L Word.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Word

Oprah's vengeful ex-stepmother dishes on star

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Oprah's ex-stepmother, Barbara Winfrey, wants revenge. After she divorced Oprah's father Vernon, Oprah pushed Barbara out of the house where she lived with Vernon and which Oprah owned. Now Barbara is retaliating by dishing all in a Daily Mail interview. Here are the best bits:

1. She claims she has never seen Oprah and her long-term boyfriend, Stedman Graham, kiss, hold hands or seem romantic.

2. "If it's not more than friendship, they're giving every appearance that it is," she said about the close friendship of Oprah and Gayle King.

3. Oprah is obsessed with skin colour. "It's a real thing for her. It's one of the things she liked about Stedman. He has what we call 'high yellow' skin and soft hair … she liked that."

4. Oprah forces everyone to sign a confidentiality agreement. "Once you're in Oprah's world, she owns you," she noted.

5. There are rumours that Vernon is not Winfrey's biological father. Barbara claims he wanted to do the DNA test but Oprah refused. "She knows it would prove he IS her father. She can't quite believe that such a silly man could make such a magnificent creature," she said.

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With so many unique grape varieties growing around the world, you could drink a wine made from a different one every day for the rest of your life and never come close to saying you tasted them all.

I recently tried a Turkish wine made from Öküzgözü: a piece of fruit native to Turkey's Elazığ province. I hadn't had it before and love that after decades of walking the wine beat, I'm still finding new-to-me juice.

Of course you don't have to go that far afield to try something other than merlot and chardonnay. There are plenty of mainstream countries producing wines from lesser known grapes.

Puglia, the heel of Italy's boot, has almost exclusive rights to Negroamaro — a dark, brooding berry that delivers well above its typically inexpensive price point.

The 2012 Mezzomondo Negroamaro IGT ($8.95 - $11.99) is majorly aromatic with dark berry fruit flavours and the grape's classic light bitter finish, which makes it a perfect partner for meaty tomato sauces and weekend barbecues.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

This meal is as sweet as pie — minus the sugar. Annabel Langbein, who brings good food into today's fast-paced world, shows us a savoury recipe that's perfect for breakfast, lunch or dinner from her cookbook The Free Range Cook

Bacon and Egg Pie: Bake a different type of pastry tonight

THE FREE RANGE COOK
Annabel Langbein
gustotv.com

1. Preheat oven to 200 C. Place a flat baking tray in the oven to heat — the pie will sit on this and the heat will help it to crisp.

2. Cut a piece of baking paper to fit a 40 x 30 cm baking dish or roasting pan. It should cover the base and reach about 3-4 cm up the sides. Remove the baking paper from the baking dish or roasting pan and lay it flat on your bench. Dust it with a little flour and lay 2 pastry sheets on top. Join the pastry sheets by pressing them together firmly with a small overlap. Roll out the pastry to cover the paper. Lift the paper with the pastry and lay it into the baking dish or roasting pan (it will reach 3-4 cm up the sides).

3. Sprinkle the bacon over the pastry. Top with the sliced potato and sprinkle with the herbs. Break 8 whole eggs over the top.

4. In a mixing bowl, lightly whisk the remaining 6 eggs with the milk, salt and pepper. Pour this evenly over the whole eggs.

5. Roll out the remaining sheet of pastry very thinly and cut it into narrow strips. Arrange the strips in a lattice pattern on top of the pie, trimming off any excess.

6. Place the prepared pie on top of the heated baking tray and bake for 12-15 minutes until the pastry is starting to puff and turn golden. Reduce the heat to 180 C and bake until the pastry is golden and cooked through on the base — about a further 35-40 minutes.

7. Serve warm or at room temperature with a salad and pickles or chutney. It will keep in a covered container in the fridge for 2-3 days.

WATCH THE ANNABEL LANGBEIN FREE RANGE COOK MONDAY TO THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M. EST, STARTING APRIL 28 ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.

Ingredients

- 3 sheets (450 g) ready-rolled savoury shortcrust pastry
- 250 g streaky bacon, cut into 2 cm pieces
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled, cooked and thinly sliced
- 3 tbsp soft herbs such as parsley, basil, chives or spring onion tops, chopped
- 14 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tsp salt
- ground black pepper

This recipe serves six to eight people. ANNABEL LANGBEIN

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Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Cavalia Odysseo

Starting April 23rd, you are invited to enjoy a fantastic show under the big top situated on the Canada Olympic Park grounds. Cavalia Odysseo is one part Cirque de Soleil and one part Stampede with dancers, acrobats, musicians and 70 horses performing amazing feats that defy gravity and all expectations. Due to popular demand, shows will be running until June 1st and you can purchase tickets to both matinee and evening performances. To find out more visit: cavalia.net

The Summit

Come and see the latest works of Sarah Burwash, which are now on display at the Untitled Contemporary Art Main Space (343 11th Ave. SW). The Summit is a colourful compilation of watercolour drawings and installations that touch on historical themes reinterpreted by the artist. The opening reception is Friday evening from 8 to 11 p.m. and admission is free. You can learn more about Burwash's art at sarahburwash.com. For details on gallery hours visit: uascalgary.org

The Heart Truth

During the evening of April 26th you can attend a fashion show with a lot of heart! In an effort to raise awareness about women's health, The Heart Truth Fashion Show will feature an exciting group of designers who will be dressing local personalities and VIPs in signature red dresses for a one-of-a-kind event. The Heart and Stroke Foundation is a great cause to support and the VIP tickets include a reserved seat for the runway show, a champagne reception and a goody bag to take home. To purchase your tickets: thehearttruthcalgary.ca

Pop-Up Art

On April 28th you can check out a pop-up art gallery happening at the Keynote building (1st St.and 12th Ave. SE). Artists Roger Arndt, Doug Levitt and Murray Phillips will have an interesting collection of their signature Western art up for art fans and residents of the neighbourhood to see. All three artists will be at the show to answer questions about their work and, better yet, if you see something you like you can purchase it at the pop-up. The gallery will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. calgaryculture.com

UN International Jazz Day

Wednesday, April 30th is UN International Jazz Day, and Calgary is invited to come out and enjoy a day of music at no charge. Throughout the day you can catch live jazz and interviews at CJSW, the Johnny Summers Trio will be playing at Southcentre Mall, Gary Martin and the Funk Brothers will be entertaining jazz fans over lunchtime at the EPCOR Centre and there will be free swing dance lessons at the Mount Pleasant Community Hall. To learn more about the day or to see the full event listings, visit: jazzyyc.com

Sled Island Rock Lottery

Next Saturday, May 3rd, you're invited out to the Sled lsland Rock Lottery. Never been? This is how it works: 25 super stellar musicians from Calgary will be entered in a draw and as names are randomly pulled, new bands will be formed for a special one night performance the following night. Once the lottery is complete, each new band will have 12 hours to come up with songs and you just never know what to expect up on stage. All the spontaneous fun goes down at the Palomino at 8 p.m. sledisland.com

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MLB

O's knock Jays down to .500

The Toronto Blue Jays wasted a quality start by Drew Hutchison and fell back to the .500 mark by dropping an 11-4 decision to the Baltimore Orioles on Thursday night at Rogers Centre.

Hutchison worked six solid innings and left the game with a 3-2 lead. The Orioles attacked the Toronto bullpen by scoring five runs in the seventh and adding four more in the eighth to turn the game into a rout.

Jonathan Schoop homered and David Lough had three of the Orioles' 14 hits. Bud Norris (1-2) allowed five hits, three earned runs and a walk over six innings as Baltimore (11-10) took the rubber game of the three-game series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Pineda stuck with 10-game ban

New York Yankees pitcher Michael Pineda was suspended for 10 games by Major League Baseball on Thursday for using pine tar to help him grip the ball.

Michael Pineda
GETTY IMAGES

He said he won't appeal the penalty that will cost him two starts. Pineda was ejected from Wednesday's 5-1 loss to Boston after umpires found the pine tar on his neck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian skier John Kucera announced his retirement in Calgary on Thursday. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'My body just told me' to retire: Kucera

Morning dizziness.
Alpine skier and former world champion calls it quits

John Kucera's career was shorter than he wanted but he leaves alpine ski racing knowing he achieved two firsts for Canada.

The first Canadian man to win a world downhill championship and the Canadian skier to stand atop the World Cup podium in Lake Louise announced his retirement from ski racing Thursday.

Kucera won the men's downhill title in Val-d'Isère, France, in 2009. He earned three career World Cup medals in super-G, including gold in Lake Louise in 2006.

"I'm just really proud I managed to take a very short career and do big things with it," the 29-year-old Calgarian said at Alpine Canada's headquarters in his hometown. "It was a great ride. It really was.

"I did some things in this country that I was the first to do and I'm really proud of that."

Kucera's first four years on the national team were successful and promising. But a broken leg followed by a frustrating inner ear condition sidelined him for four of the last five seasons and also kept him from competing in two Winter Olympics.

Vestibular neuritis — an inner ear condition causing dizziness and nausea — struck during a training camp in Chile last September and made it impossible to race through gates at 130 kilometres per hour.

Kucera wasn't able to get back on skis to race at the Winter Games in Sochi in February.

The symptoms still linger and the uncertainty over how long they'll remain, combined with an opportunity to join the coaching staff of the national development team, steered Kucera towards retirement.

"Truth be told, I'm not 100 per cent yet," he said. "I think my body just told me it was time to start doing something else.

"This vestibular neuritis is tough because there is no time line. I could be good by July, but I could be good by next July and really, nobody can give me that answer. Who would've thought the thing that would have finally took me out was waking up dizzy one morning?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

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It all comes down to goaltending

Fleury takes the heat.
Penguins' goalie under fire, even with Crosby and Malkin not scoring

One of the great things about the world we live in is the instant access to information we neither need nor fully understand.

For instance, when Marc-Andre Fleury pulled one of the great choke jobs — even for him — in NHL first-round playoff history on Wednesday, Twitter's #Fleury hashtag trended to the top and was still going strong on Thursday. Weird thing, though — it was going strong in Russian.

It's clear the Penguins have a lot of Russian fans. Fleury does not.

And that's the world Fleury lives in. The team's great when it's winning. The goalie's horrible when it's losing.

The Penguins are tied 2-2 with the Columbus Blue Jackets. They surrendered a 3-0 lead and in the last minute of the game, Fleury wandered behind his net, completely missed the puck and gave Columbus a chance to tie it. It was like all saves he'd made didn't happen.

Then, the Jackets won in overtime on a wrist shot from 50 feet away that is stopped by nine out of 10 road hockey goalies. Then, truly, all the saves he'd made didn't matter.

The Penguins' problems go deeper than Fleury — neither Sidney Crosby nor Evgeni Malkin have scored — but in the playoffs, it all comes down to goaltending. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Just for comparison

Fleury versus Price

Now compare the brain-cramped Fleury to the savvy Carey Price.

Did Montreal ice the puck and do his linemates need a rest? Price has a problem with his equipment. Is there a player in his crease? Price makes sure to "get hit" by him, just in case. A goal is called back. Is there a stoppage in play so Price can skate to the bench? Why not trip an unsuspecting Tampa player or two en route, to give the Bell Centre crowd something to laugh at?

Penguins' goalie Marc-Andre Fleury is unable to stop a game-winning long shot from Nick Foligno of the Columbus Blue Jackets in overtime in Game 4 of the playoffs on Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio. KIRK IRWIN/GETTY IMAGES

Wild survive Avalanche attack to even series

Wild and Avalanche players throw punches after a whistle during Game 4 of their first-round playoff series on Thursday night in St Paul., Minn. The Wild scored the game's first two goals and hung on for a 2-1 win to even the series at two games apiece. HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

Boston at Detroit. Iginla helps Bruins pin Red Wings against ropes

Jarome Iginla and the Bruins are shipping up to Boston with a chance to eliminate the Detroit Red Wings.

Iginla scored the overtime winner on multiple deflections to give the Bruins a 3-2 victory over the Red Wings in Game 4 Thursday night at Joe Louis Arena. Boston leads the series three games to one and can advance to face the Montreal Canadiens with a victory in Game 5 Saturday back at home.

Dougie Hamilton took the original shot that was tipped by Iginla and then Red Wings defenceman Danny Dekeyser on the way into the net at 13:32 of overtime.

Torey Krug and Milan Lucic also scored for Boston, which became the ninth team in these Stanley Cup playoffs to erase a two-goal lead. Goaltender Tuukka Rask made 35 saves to keep the Bruins in it.

New fathers Niklas Kronwall and Pavel Datsyuk scored for the Red Wings. Kronwall's wife gave birth to a baby boy earlier in the day, and Datsyuk's gave birth to a baby girl Wednesday.

Jonas Gustavsson was Detroit's unexpected, last-minute starter in goal in place of the flu-ridden Jimmy Howard. In his NHL playoff debut, Gustavsson stopped 37 of the 40 shots he faced. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game 4

Bruins	Red Wings
3	2

Chicago at St. Louis. Seabrook likely to return before injured Backes

One more game, and the Chicago Blackhawks will have linchpin defenceman Brent Seabrook back in the lineup.

The St. Louis Blues aren't certain when captain David Backes, the player on the receiving end of the head-jarring hit that landed Seabrook a three-game suspension, will be ready.

Coach Ken Hitchcock said from a selfish standpoint it would be unfair if Seabrook returned before Backes to a white-knuckle first-round playoff series tied at two games apiece heading into Game 5 Friday night. Backes was not among a handful on the ice for an optional practice Thursday and Hitchcock was tight-lipped about his status.

"He's not skating today so read what you want from that," Hitchcock said. "He's not around, he's not skating, so we'll see tomorrow.

"Hopefully, he's able to get back before Seabrook or by Seabrook's time, so it doesn't turn into a little bit of an advantage for Chicago."

The Blackhawks have won two straight, mounting their bid for a repeat Stanley Cup. They took the day off for travel, confident they can beat the Blues on the road.

"I think the odds are in our favour right now," forward Andrew Shaw said. "The last two games have been huge for us. We had a good push, the push we needed."

The Blues still have home-ice advantage in a series that couldn't be closer. Three games were decided in overtime and Game 3 was a one-goal affair before the Blackhawks added an empty-netter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brent Seabrook
GETTY IMAGES

Knee-on-knee hit

Cooke apologizes to injured Av

Minnesota Wild left-winger Matt Cooke has apologized for the knee-on-knee hit on Colorado Avalanche defenceman Tyson Barrie.

Cooke drew a seven-game suspension from the NHL for the hit that knocked Barrie out of action for 4-6 weeks.

Cooke said he did not intend to injure Barrie, adding it was a case of him playing his physical style. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL awards

Bergeron, Toews, Kopitar named finalists for Selke

Patrice Bergeron, Jonathan Toews and Anze Kopitar are the finalists for the NHL's Selke Trophy, awarded to the best defensive forward.

Chicago Blackhawk Toews edged out Bergeron of the Boston Bruins for the honour last year. Kopitar is the first player in Los Angeles Kings franchise history to be a Selke finalist. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vince Carter. Chris Bosh. Kyle Lowry. Scan the image below with the Metro News app for a gallery of some of the Raptors' best players — past and present — in the playoffs.

Raps in need of star from Game 2

NBA playoffs. Coach, teammates confident DeMar DeRozan can rise to the occasion

After a wobbly playoff debut, Raptors star DeMar DeRozan returned to attack mode for Game 2 against the Brooklyn Nets.

The 24-year-old Toronto guard had just 14 points in Game 1, with eight of those coming from the free throw line, in a 94-87 loss to visiting Brooklyn that saw DeRozan miss 10 of 13 shots.

On Tuesday, a different DeRozan took the court. As he approached the Nets basket, it was as if his brain was in overdrive as it diagrammed possible plays. The possibilities seemed endless: dish off to a teammate, drive to the basket, pull back and take a shot.

The Raptors will need more of the same Friday when the series switches to Brooklyn's Barclays Center for Game 3.

While Toronto preaches a team approach, the Raptors know good things happen when DeRozan is rolling.

"I was just trying to feed him," Toronto guard Greivis Vasquez said of Game 2. "I was just trying to get him the ball — it was just, 'Go, go. We need you to get confidence.'"

Mission accomplished.

DeRozan finished with 30 points, 17 of which came in the fourth quarter when he made four of five shots and nine of 11 free throws. He finished the game with five fouls, hanging his head at one point at the end of the bench while his teammates huddled during a timeout.

But he was on point when he returned to action in the 100-95 win.

DeRozan's fourth-quarter output was just two points off the club playoff record of 19, set in 2001 by Vince Carter against Philadelphia. Again and again, DeRozan answered the veteran Nets as they tried to claw their way back.

For coach Dwane Casey, DeRozan showed his maturity by taking the shots the defence was giving him rather than trying to force things.

"He's growing," said Casey. "He's still not a finished product. We've just seen the beginning of a guy becoming a star." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diehard fans

Reppin' the T-Dot in B.K.

They not only rock the ACC, they make a presence on the road as well. Diehard fans have been spotted wearing Raptors jerseys wherever the team has played this season.

But come Friday, Raptors fans will face a new challenge — cheering on their team in Brooklyn in a playoff game. Some dedicated fans are making the trip to what's likely to be a hostile Barclays Center.

"We've just gotta represent our team," fan Burhan Ehsan said. "Hopefully they can pull out a win." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DeMar DeRozan makes a layup for the Raptors in their 100-95 win over the Nets on Tuesday at the Air Canada Centre. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Try not to be too serious about life today. There's a time to ponder the big questions but this isn't it. The planets urge you to be practical and to focus on what's in front of you.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
All things may be possible for you now but the planets warn you should be tying up loose ends rather than starting anything new. Are you prepared for what is to come? Get your act together.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will find it easy to get your way. Others will take it for granted that you are the boss and do as you say. If you use charm rather than coercion you will find that everyone will do almost anything for you.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No matter how much others might question your beliefs, if you are happy with them there is no reason to change. Yes, some of your ideas may seem irrational, but so what?

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Make sure you get value for money today because if you don't take care of your cash, others will get rich at your expense. You may not care now how much things are costing you but you will when you can no longer afford them.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you make an effort to reach out to those you love, this will be an enjoyable day. Some may be of the opinion that you lack the human touch but obviously they don't know you.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
No matter how determined you are to make an impression on people in positions of power you must not run yourself into the ground.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't be shy about letting those you care for know how much they mean to you. Creatively, too, this should be a good day for you, so let your artistic side come to the fore.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you have been too busy to spend much quality time with loved ones recently, you will get the chance to make up for it over the next few days. You've had your fun, now you want those you have feelings for to have fun as well.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You want to go out and have a good time but you also want to express your feelings openly and honestly. Yes, you can do both. This is the perfect day to use those three magic words: "I love you". Mean them.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are on a winning streak at the moment and the planets indicate it will continue into the weekend. It doesn't have to be just about money — you will be lucky in love as well.

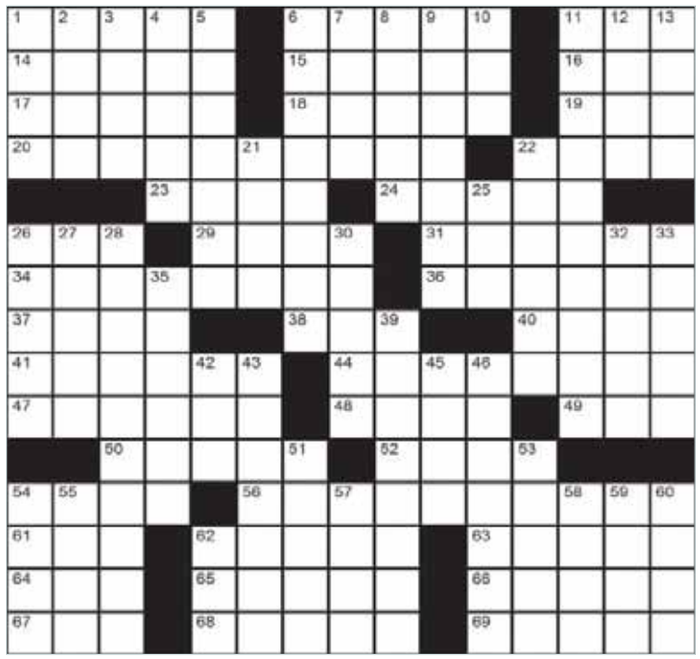
Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will feel good about yourself today, thanks to the influence of Venus, planet of harmony, in your sign. Try to avoid work that may be strenuous because it's unlikely that your heart will be in it.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

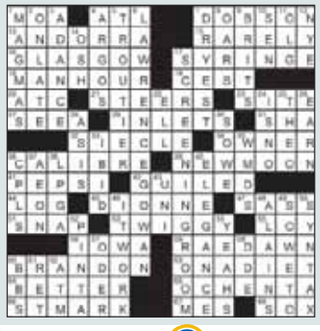
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Circus clown's one-of-two supports
6. Former-pro-wrestler Ms. Keibler
11. Moose __, SK
14. Verboten
15. Attack of pain
16. Alias indicator
17. Swashbuckling props
18. Ms. Bombeck's
19. Zilch
20. Madame Tussauds attractions: 2 wds.
22. Chap
23. Particular preservative
24. Pub order
26. Scand. land
29. Quebec: Saint-Joseph-__-__-Rive
31. Mountain ridges
34. Maple syrup targets
36. "Maybe __ _ nice walk?" (Human-to-dog suggestion)
37. Rapper, Flo __
38. Brit. fliers
40. Divided
41. Classic video game platforms
44. Singer/songwriter/activist, 'Canada's Queen of Punk': 2 wds.
47. Northern __ (Seabird of the North Atlantic)
48. Blues guitarist Robert
49. Mr. Sock's
50. Ms. Rowlands, and namesakes
52. Single-named Ziegfeld Follies designer
54. He's opposite
56. Method to create smoky messages
61. Ventilate
62. Ring
63. __jumbo
64. 'Impress' suffix
65. Thus
66. Proclamation
67. Pointed the way
68. Equally cry-worthy: 2 wds.
69. Prefix to 'dyne' (Toothpaste brand)

Down
1. Slow cooker dish
2. Spanish appetizer
3. Steep-terrain-dwelling animal with recurved horns
4. Windblown silt deposit
5. Deep-fried tortilla
6. Town dubbed 'The Heart of Alberta'
7. Drive-__ (Fast food service)
8. Weapons: French
9. Like many Newfoundland communities
10. Nod's meaning
11. "When Calls the Heart", a new series set in a coal town in Western Canada and airing on Super Channel, is based on the work of this bestselling Alberta author: 2 wds.
12. Comparable
13. Mr. Disney
21. Director Mr. Keshishian
22. "Titanium" by David __ feat. Sia
25. Hour: Italian
26. Wheel-steadying wedge
27. "__ _ second!" (Hold on!)
28. Banff Springs Snail status
30. Easy __ _ _ _ (Simple)
32. Goofed
33. Smoothes
35. "Bette Davis Eyes" by Kim __
39. Yukon's official flower
42. CTV journalist Marci
43. Buried treasures
45. Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
46. Big Apple newspaper: acr. + wd.
51. Potato parts
53. Chopin music piece
54. Traverse the seas
55. Bee's abode
57. Common gym site
58. Standard song: "__ the Mood for Love": 2 wds.
59. The Peacock network's
60. Attend: 2 wds.
62. Dance style, when repeated

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2	3						9	8
			8		9			
1		9				4		6
		1	6		3	8		
	2						7	
		6	1		7	9		
3		8				7		2
			2		5			
9	7						5	4

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	6	1	4	7	8	9	3
3	4	8	2	9	5	6	7	1
9	7	1	3	6	8	2	4	5
4	9	2	5	8	1	3	6	7
6	5	7	9	3	4	1	2	8
8	1	3	6	7	2	9	5	4
2	8	9	7	5	3	4	1	6
7	6	4	8	1	9	5	3	2
1	3	5	4	2	6	7	8	9

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: 8° MIN: 1°	MAX: 4° MIN: 0°	MAX: 13° MIN: 3°

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